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Editor and Publisher
J. Kumaragurubaran I.A.S.,
Director of Information &
Public Relations and Ex-officio
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Designed by
P.A. Louis
G. Murali Krishnan

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Website : www.tndipr.gov.in

"Freedom is not limited to freedom of speech, freedom of the Press, freedom of thought and freedom of self rule. True freedom lies in economic independence and equality".

Selvi J Jayalalithaa

-Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on the occasion of the dedication of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit-I through Video Conferencing on 10.08.2016.

'Work Unitedly for India'

Independence Day Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**
on 14.08.2016 (English Translation)

I am happy to extend my Independence Day greetings to all our people on this delightful day that marks the liberation of India from the British yoke.

The Independence Day is a golden day to cherish the memory and recollect the sacrifices of the countless freedom fighters who suffered imprisonment in the freedom struggle waged against the British to drive them away from Indian soil, bore sufferings cheerfully and ascended the gallows with scant regard for their own lives.

By way of honouring tyagis who fought for the liberation of the motherland, your beloved sister's Government is implementing many schemes like increasing their monthly pension from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.11,000/- and the family pension to their heirs from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.5,500/-; the special monthly pension to the descendants of Veera Pandiya Kattabomman, Marudhu brothers, Muthuramalinga Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathy and V.O. Chidambaranar from Rs.4,500/- to Rs.5,000/-; and the medical allowance to the pensioners and family pensioners from Rs.100/- to Rs.500/-.

By way of educating the younger generations about the services rendered by the tyagis who laid down their lives for the freedom of the country, my Government has erected memorials for many tyagis like Tyagi Subramaniya Siva Manimandapam, Tyagi Dheeran Chinnamalai Memorial, Tyagi Vanchinathan Memorial Mandapam, Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar Memorial Mandapam, Veera Thaai Kuyili Memorial, Veerapandia Kattabomman Manimandapam and Tyagi Sundaralinganar Manimandapam. Besides, these memorials are periodically refurbished and renovated.

Once again, I extend my Independence Day greetings to all of you and urge you all to safeguard the freedom that our ancestors got for us after a great struggle, realise your duty by the country and work hard for country's development with unity as Indians, discarding the divisions on the grounds of caste, religion, language and race.

Chief Minister sees education, economic uplift as basis of true Independence

Independence Day speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** from the ramparts of Fort St.George after hoisting the National Flag on 15.08.2016 (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M. Thambithurai,

Hon'ble Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Thiru. P.Dhanapal,

Hon'ble Ministers,

Judges of Chennai High Court,

Members of Parliament and Legislature,

Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao,

Adviser to Tamil Nadu Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan,

Top officers of the Government and employees,

Director General of Police Thiru. Ashok Kumar,

Top officers of the Police Department,

Constables,

Respected Elders,

Ladies, my veritable Gods who sustain me,

My dear siblings who are blood unto blood of Idhaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R and who are dearer to me than my own life,

I offer my affectionate respects and Independence Day greetings to all of you.

While we are celebrating the 70th Independence Day, I am extremely happy to speak to you after hoisting the glittering National Flag. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to my dear people of Tamil Nadu who have given me this opportunity.

Our country Bharat is the best in the world. It was enslaved by the British. Independence Day is the day to remember the heroes and heroines of the freedom struggle who fought against the British selflessly, receiving blows and kicks, shedding blood and laying down their lives cheerfully.

Tamil Nadu's contribution in sowing the seeds for the liberation struggle of India, is considerable.

Some 35 years earlier to India's independence, fighter Vanchinathan placed a portrait of Bharatha Maathaa under the flag mast at Senkottai (Red Fort) in Tamil Nadu, hoisted the Bharatha Maathaa flag and thundered prophetically and heroically: "The Bharatha Maathaa flag fluttering in our Senkottai should soon envelop the whole country and fly as the victory flag". The credit for hoisting the National Flag in our Senkottai 35 years before the Indian National Flag fluttered at Delhi Red Fort, should go entirely to Tyagi Vanchinathan.

The then Tirunelveli Collector Ash suppressed the freedom struggle ruthlessly. Vanchinathan, shot and killed the Collector, committed suicide and aroused the desire for freedom that was dormant in our people till then.

In Tamil Nadu, there were ever so many people like Veerapandia Kattabomman, V.O.Chidambaram Pillai, Subramania Bharathi,

Subramania Siva, Muthuramalinga Thevar, Tirupur Kumaran, Dheeran Chinnamalai, Maaveeran Azhagu Muthukone, Pooli Thevar, Tyagi Viswanatha Das, Marudhu brothers, Dheerar Satyamoorthy, Marshal Nesamony, Velu Nachiyar, , the Commander of her army Kuyili, Thillaiyadi Valliammai and the respectable Qaid –e – Milleth, who fanned the fire of freedom among the people.

Today, we are enjoying the freedom that was obtained by the tyagis after shedding their blood, losing their assets, suffering incarceration and a variety of difficulties and laying down even their lives. Independence Day is the day to salute all those who suffered in one way or the other while fighting for freedom.

Freedom is not confined merely to speech and expression and self-rule. True independence lies in economic independence. All are equal. Mahakavi Bharathiyar sang about true independence thus: There is none in India as poor and as slave; there is none who belongs to an inferior caste.

Good education alone can form the basis for an individual's upliftment, social upliftment and economic upliftment. That is, my Government is giving the utmost importance to the growth of education.

As an educational incentive to students, many schemes are being implemented from providing midday food to laptop and steps are constantly being taken to improve the infrastructure of schools and for the timely appointment of teachers.

My Government gives great importance to higher education also. In the last 5 years, 62 new colleges, Indian Institute of Information Technology and National Law School have been started. This has increased the student enrolment in higher education to 44.8 per cent in Tamil Nadu and has made Tamil Nadu the premier State in the country in this regard.

Economic independence can be enjoyed fully only by healthy persons. Hence, my Government has been implementing many schemes for the upkeep of health. The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, Maternity Financial Assistance Scheme, a scheme to distribute sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in rural areas and Amma Maternity Sanjeevi scheme are being implemented. Infrastructure facilities in Hospitals and Primary Health Centres are upgraded and modern medical equipment are supplied to these institutions. Hence, Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in health indices.

My Government has been taking steps for the development of all sectors, like the premier industrial and service sectors for bringing about economic development of the people.

Pioneering projects are being implemented for improving the livelihood of farmers and

for increasing food production. That is why we are able to record new achievements every year in food grain production. Last year, an unprecedented production of 1.30 crore tonnes was achieved.

Industrial development has gone up in Tamil Nadu due to adequate supply of electricity, the best infrastructure, economic scenario, skilled labour and simplified procedures. Not only big industries but also Micro, Small and Medium Industries also have been started in a large scale.

At this hour when we are recalling the contribution of freedom fighters, I am happy to announce that the monthly pension to tyagis of the freedom struggle will be increased from Rs.11,000 /- to Rs. 12,000/-, and family pension to their heirs will be increased from Rs.5,500/- to Rs.6,000/-.

I am also happy to announce that the special pension given to the heirs of those who had participated in the freedom struggle and served the country in any particular way will be increased from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.6,000/-. The pension is given by way of honouring the sacrifices they have made.

Perarignar Anna said: Patriotism is not merely in the flag hoisting functions but in working for the country'. I follow the path of Anna and Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. I dedicate my services to the country and vow to work for the total eradication of poverty in Tamil Nadu.

Hailing, Vaazhga Bharatham !; Valarga Thamizh Naadu !!; Anna Naamam Vazhga !; Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Naamam Vazhga!!, I take leave of you. Nandri; Vanakkam. ■

'Tamil Nadu Government's CBMs ensured success of Kudankulam Unit I'

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,**
for the dedication of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit I
through Video Conference – 10.08.2016

Your Excellency, President of the Russian Federation,

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Chairman and Managing Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited,

Mr. Limarenko, Head of "Atomstroyexport" Group of Companies!

The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is a monument commemorating the long-standing, abiding and deep friendship between Russia and India. Nuclear power is clean, green and firm power, which a rapidly growing State like Tamil Nadu, aspiring to even higher growth rates and shared prosperity, really needs. The

dedication of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is a major milestone in Indo-Russian Friendship and Co-operation.

Throughout my tenures in office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu I have always extended support to the implementation of the Kudankulam Project while at the same time laying emphasis on allaying the fears of the local people by convincing them about the safety aspects of the plant. A Nuclear Power Plant takes longer to build and commission than conventional power plants. Not only is the engineering complex, very high safety standards need to be observed. The smooth commercial operation of this Project overcoming many obstacles – economic, political and social; global, national and local – stands testimony to the unwavering commitment to the Project of the Governments of Tamil Nadu, India and Russia.

The successful commissioning of the Kudankulam project is an object lesson on how the fears and apprehensions of the local population can and should be allayed, through a process of engagement and reassurance, and by building community assets and infrastructure. When the commissioning of the first Unit of the Project was getting delayed due to local agitation, I took up the matter with the Union Government to ensure that the fears and concerns of the people were heeded and addressed. To allay the fears of the citizens, an Expert Committee was formed by the State Government in February, 2012; The Committee heard the concerns of the people and reassured them on the safety features of the Project. Based on the report of the Expert Group, the Government of Tamil Nadu resolved to take steps, for the early commissioning of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant and to allocate 500 crore rupees for the development of works in the areas neighbouring Kudankulam. Due to the confidence building measures undertaken by my Government, Unit I of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant has started commercial operation.

I request that the second Unit may also be commissioned as early as possible considering the needs of our fast growing economy and the needs of our industrial and agricultural sectors.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has played an important role in reassuring the local people of the high safety standards that would be maintained in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. I am confident that the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited will maintain the highest safety standards and also ensure continuous power generation at the two Units so that Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring States, can rely on Kudankulam as a reliable base load power station.

I thank the President of the Russian Federation and the people of Russia for their contribution to the development of Tamil Nadu. I also thank the Prime Minister of India for dedicating the Unit-I of the Kudankulam Power Plant jointly with the President of the Russian Federation. I also request that the commissioning of the second unit may be expedited.

Thank you.

Tax-free budget pitches for fulfillment of every poll promise, overall growth of State

Speech of Thiru. O. Panneerselvam, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, presenting the Revised Budget for the year 2016-2017 to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 21st July, 2016.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

கொடைஅளி செங்கோல் குடிஓம்பல் நான்கும்
உடையான்ஆம் வேந்தர்க்கு ஒளி

(குறள் 390)

Gifts, grace, right sceptre, care of people's weal
These four a light of revered King's reveal

(Kural 390)

The ruler who is just, gracious, liberal and treats his people with care is the light among kings. These words of the Divine Poet Thiruvalluvar, aptly describe our Hon'ble **Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, who is the embodiment of profound wisdom and compassion. Declaring **"I am by the people and for the people"**, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been working tirelessly day and night to enliven the Tamil language, to ensure that Tamil Nadu flourishes and to bring prosperity to the life of the Tamil people.

2. Unparalleled in her leadership, unflinching in her commitment to the development of Tamil Nadu and welfare of its people and steadfast in her march towards consecutive historic electoral victories, she has been bestowed with the infinite love, affection and respect of the people of Tamil Nadu, which has ensured her assumption of charge as the Chief Minister for the sixth time. I am proud to have once again being given the opportunity to work as Finance Minister under the astute

and sagacious leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As I rise to present the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, in this august House, I submit before her boundless wisdom and faithfully express my gratitude towards her for bestowing this great responsibility on me.

3. Only a great leader can create a vision, articulate it and passionately own and pursue it, till it is fulfilled. As a great visionary leader, our Hon'ble Chief Minister has chiseled a path of development for the State of Tamil Nadu by launching the 'Vision Tamil Nadu 2023' document on 22.03.2012. While launching the document, she proclaimed

"Like Martin Luther King who had a great dream about the USA, I also have a dream or vision for Tamil Nadu. In my dream I envision a Tamil Nadu where no youth remains unemployed, where poverty is totally eradicated, where every citizen has access to all basic amenities such as health care, education, water supply and sanitation, and above all, where all the people of the State enjoy prosperity, security and peace. I have a dream wherein Tamil Nadu emerges as the Numero Uno in all economic and social indicators and emerges as the knowledge economy in this new millennium. This Vision 2023 document articulates my dream and sets certain tasks to be accomplished".

The Vision Document outlines the agenda for the development of the State, now and for the future and sets the direction for the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

4. To achieve **peace, growth** and **prosperity** in the State and the goals set out in the Vision 2023 document; this Government has formulated the following **Five State Missions** and **Eleven Special Focus Areas of Development**. The five Missions contemplated here set ambitious targets to be achieved through multi-disciplinary and multi-departmental co-ordination.

The Five State Missions are:

- **Mission for water resource management and revival of Kudimaramath**
- **Mission for housing to achieve hut free villages and slum free cities**
- **Mission for poverty reduction and economic empowerment of the poor**
- **Mission for a clean Tamil Nadu**
- **Mission for skill development**

The Eleven Special Focus Areas of Development are:

- **Agriculture and allied sector development**
- **Strengthening urban infrastructure**
- **Tourism promotion**

✶ **Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

✶ **Infrastructure development including roads, power, minor ports, irrigation and drinking water**

✶ **Industrial investment through corridor based development and improving ease of doing business**

✶ **Education for all with focus on quality**

✶ **Health for all**

✶ **Social security with focus on women and children**

✶ **Strengthening urban transportation**

✶ **Good Governance and transparency**

✶ **All the policies, programmes and schemes are designed to achieve the above objectives, for which the Revised Budget 2016-2017 outlines the strategies.**

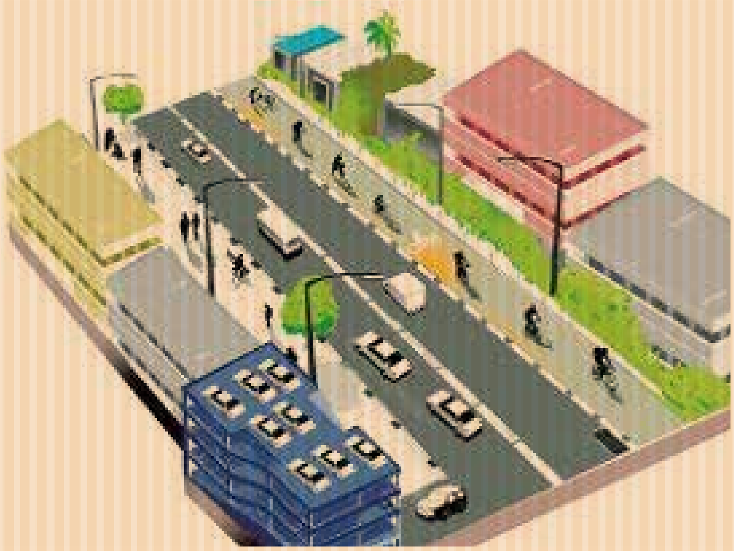
5. In the words of Thiruvalluvar, "just to say a thing is easy for anyone, but to do it in the manner undertaken is a rare thing indeed". True to his words, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has proven her able leadership with her actions. In the recent Legislative Assembly Elections, after 32 years, the people of Tamil Nadu delivered a historic verdict and have given her a consecutive second term to take charge of the State administration. During her address to thank the people of Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, **"I am indebted to the people of Tamil Nadu for placing immense faith on me and giving this historic victory. I intend to show my gratitude by my actions and we will strive to fulfil all promises made in the Manifesto".** To fulfil this commitment, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, immediately after assuming charge, has issued Government Orders for implementing the five major promises made in the Election Manifesto.

POVERTY REDUCTION

6. This Government has launched a State Mission on Poverty Reduction in both rural and urban areas with a multi-pronged approach under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women. The main strategy is identifying eligible poor families and organising them as Self Help Groups. These groups will be supported for their economic empowerment through skill training, extension

of credit for self-employment and starting micro enterprises, besides assisting them in the areas of health, sanitation and education.

7. The 'Pudhu Vaazhvu Project' is being implemented in 120 Blocks. The 'Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project' will be taken up with the World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs.900 crore in 120 Blocks. Along with these, the 'Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission' (TNSRLM) and the 'National Rural Livelihood Mission' (NRLM) will cover all the 385 Blocks, thus covering the entire State under poverty alleviation programmes. **For these poverty reduction schemes in rural areas, an amount of Rs.355.81 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.**



8. Even though the Government of India has restricted the 'National Urban Livelihood Mission' (NULM) in Tamil Nadu to forty Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), the State Government has been implementing the 'Tamil Nadu Urban Livelihood Mission' (TNULM) throughout the State, filling the gap with its own funds. **A sum of Rs.350 crore has been provided for urban livelihood programmes in the Revised Budget 2016-2017.**

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

9. The State Mission on skill development will impart skills to 20 million persons as stated in the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 Document. The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation has been set up as a nodal agency to co-ordinate all the skill development training implemented in the State. Tie-ups of potential employers like industrial units with academic institutions will be encouraged to enhance the employability of the educated youth. These tie-ups would play a crucial role in imparting skill development training to fulfil the skill gap requirements of the industry and to ensure benchmarking of skill training in alignment with the National Skill Qualification framework. **During 2016-2017, it is proposed to train two lakh youth for skill development under this Mission. A sum of Rs.150 crore has been earmarked in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for the 'Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission'.**

10.Employment Exchanges are now acting as career guidance centres for disseminating information on career opportunities to the unemployed youth. District Level Private Placement Assistance Cells, which have been created in 37 District Employment Offices, organise job melas and facilitate face-to-face interviews. The access to the database maintained by the employment offices is open to private sector employers to fulfil their employment requirement.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

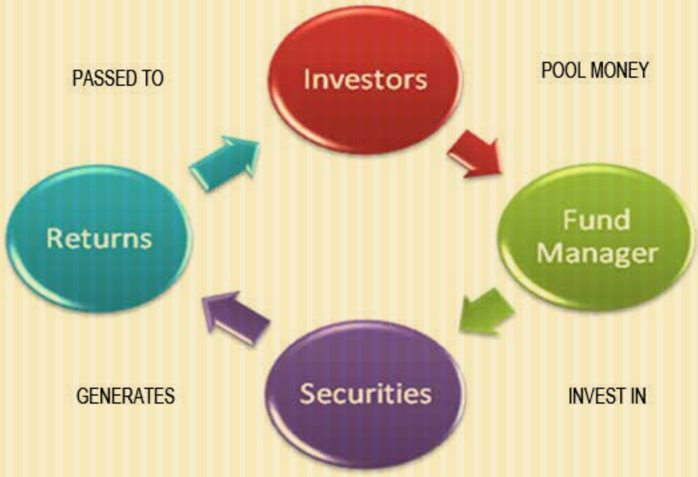
11. The Hon'ble Chief Minister released the Part II of Vision Tamil Nadu 2023 document on 21.02.2014. This document spelt out the sector specific approaches and profiles of 217 infrastructure projects in six major sectors. I am glad to inform this august House that the works for 88 projects have already started and 16 projects have reached bidding stage. Detailed Project Reports and Detailed Feasibility Studies have been prepared for 24 projects which are ready for launch. The remaining projects are at various stages of preparation.

12. This Government has created the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board (TNIDB) in 2012 to support and execute the enlisted projects in Vision 2023 and give exclusive focus to major infrastructure projects, especially under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. **In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.2,000 crore has been allocated for the 'Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Fund' and Rs.100 crore has been allocated for the 'Project Preparation Fund'.**

13. **In a landmark initiative, for the first time in the Country, the State has promoted the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund as an Alternative Investment Fund Category I (AIF-I) through the Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation (TNIFMC). I am happy to inform that the Fund has already been registered by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and is now in the process of mobilizing the first financial close of Rs.3,000 crore. These resources will be used to fund new infrastructure projects in the State during 2016-2017.**

14. The greatest challenge before this Government is to steer the State economy in the midst of the uncertain global and domestic economic environment. The challenge is particularly intense in the Manufacturing Sector, which is critical to achieve double digit growth. Even under these difficult circumstances, the State performed better as the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate in 2015-2016 is estimated at 8.79% as against the All India Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 7.57% at 2011-2012 constant prices. The growth rate is expected to improve once the data from latest estimates is made available. With the State Plan expenditure target for 2016-2017 set at Rs.60,610 crore, the GSDP growth rate is expected to go up further during 2016-2017.

15. Several inclusive welfare programmes are being implemented to uplift the poor



for ensuring growth with equity. The steps taken by this Government to prepare Human Development Reports for all Districts in the State will provide the much needed inputs for appropriately designing various programmes. **The 'State Balanced Growth Fund' (SBGF) aimed at reducing the socio-economic imbalances in 105 backward blocks through flexible programmes to address the gaps in key indicators in poverty, health, education and gender equity will be continued. A sum of Rs.100 crore is allocated for this programme in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. The 'Special Area Development Programme' has been launched with State funds, in lieu of the erstwhile 'Hill Area Development Programme' (HADP) and 'Western Ghats Development Programme' (WGDP). This scheme will be implemented with an allocation of Rs.75 crore during 2016-2017.**

16. The successful Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) launched by the Government to encourage innovations in administration will be continued further. So far, 115 projects have been taken up at an outlay of Rs.250.49 crore to pilot innovative ideas. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.150 crore has been provided for this purpose.

TAMIL DEVELOPMENT

17. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has always given special support to all institutions that are involved in promotion of the Tamil language. As announced earlier, 'Amma Literary Award' for eminent women writers, 'World Tamil Sangam Award' for Tamil Scholars across the globe, 'The Best Translator Award' for outstanding translators will be given from this year onwards. A sum of Rs.32.94 crore is provided for the Tamil Development Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

ROAD SAFETY

18. This Government has already strengthened road patrols and improved the use of Road Accident Data Management System in order to reduce road accidents. This Government will further strengthen road safety measures, including awareness campaigns and engineering interventions. **Totally, an amount of Rs.165 crore has been provided for the Road Safety Fund in this Revised**

Budget Estimates 2016-2017. Further, under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Project (CRIDP), an amount of Rs.150 crore is earmarked for the Road Safety Component to correct black spots in highly accident-prone areas.

LAW AND ORDER

19. Maintenance of a peaceful environment in the State is the first goal in the troika of 'Peace, Growth and Prosperity', the mission statement of this Government. The Hon'ble Chief Minister is known for her resolve to preserve public order and maintain communal amity through timely and firm action. Caste and communal tensions are being handled by the Police with tact and requisite force. Frequent combing operations, effective intelligence system and formation of Naxalite Special Duty Wing in 10 border Districts have effectively controlled the activities of Left Wing Extremism. It is a matter of pride that 500 fishermen youth were appointed as Marine Home Guards in 13 coastal Districts, which is a first of its kind initiative in the Country.

20. The professionalism and efficiency of our Police Force was exhibited in the successful security arrangements made for the Mahamaham festival in Kumbakonam from 13th to 22nd February 2016. Facilitating the smooth participation of more than fifty lakh devotees for taking holy dip in an orderly manner, elaborate bandobust and security arrangements were made by the Police Force.

21. This Government will ensure that all the Police Stations function in Government buildings by **constructing buildings for the remaining 64 Police Stations which are functioning in the private rental buildings.** The Government has already sanctioned Rs.50.10 crore under the 'Modernisation of Police Force' (MPF) towards purchase of vehicles, equipment for security, communication, surveillance, etc. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.68.62 crore has been provided for the Modernisation of Police Force.

22. Under the 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System' (CCTNS), 1,482 Police Stations and 479 higher offices throughout

the State have been connected. Besides, this Government has sanctioned Rs.22.14 crore from State funds, for various components including the addition of 938 special units in the CCTNS.

23. **Committed to the policy of increasing housing availability for Police Personnel, construction of 2,673 houses for Police Personnel will be taken up at a cost of Rs.422 crore in the year 2016-2017.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.6,102.95 crore has been allocated for the Police Department.

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

24. The Fire and Rescue Services Department has been continuously modernized under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister by inducting modern equipment like sky lifts and quick response vehicles. This Government will further strengthen the Fire and Rescue Services by improving their technical capability. A sum of Rs.230.07 crore has been allocated to this Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

PRISONS

25. This Government considers the prisons as corrective institutions and several innovative measures are being taken for providing job oriented vocational training and by setting up several production units in the prison premises. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.282.92 crore has been allocated for the Prisons Department.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

26. To facilitate smooth and efficient functioning of the Judiciary, the infrastructure of Courts has been improved substantially. In the last five years, 223 new Courts have been constituted, new buildings at a cost of Rs.486.26 crore have been constructed, and additional Judges and necessary supporting staff have been sanctioned. In addition to the State Judicial Academy in Chennai, Regional Centres of this Academy have also been established at Coimbatore and Madurai at a cost of Rs.28.10 crore. Digitization of Court records of the High Court of Madras is under progress at a cost of Rs.9.43 crore. A sum of Rs.993.24 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for Administration of Justice.

GOVERNANCE

27. Among the many initiatives taken up by this Government for transparency and accountability in governance, **'AMMA Thittam' (Assured Maximum Services to Marginal People in All Villages)** taking the services of

the Government to the doorsteps of the people, Amma Call Centre, a round the clock grievance redressal system and establishment of 10,532 e-Sevai Centres across the State are noteworthy. These e-Sevai Centres are providing more than 100 public services at present and the number of services will be scaled up to 300 during this year. The proposed constitution of Lokayukta will make a significant impact in ensuring clean administration and accountability in governance.

28. The process of establishing the 'State Resident Data Hub' (SRDH) has been almost completed. This hub will serve as a unified data repository of biometry enabled residents data derived from the National Population Registry (NPR). This hub will cater to the needs of all Departments for delivery of citizen centric services. It will help the Government to ensure better targeting, effective service delivery, greater accountability and more efficient monitoring of schemes. In the near future, this will facilitate rolling out of a biometric Aadhaar enabled payment system to disburse welfare benefits to citizens.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

29. The Government under the Hon'ble Chief Minister has created 65 new Taluks and 9 new Revenue Divisions in the past five years. This has ensured the common public better accessibility to revenue administration, resulting in speedier delivery of public services. This Government is committed to creating more Taluks and Revenue Divisions as per the need, in order to further improve the administration. **The infrastructure of the Revenue Department will be further improved by constructing buildings for 15 Taluk Offices and 5 Revenue Divisional Offices and a new building for Assistant Director, Survey Department at Kancheepuram at a total cost of Rs.51.57 crore.**

30. The Land Records Modernisation scheme will ensure digitisation of all Field Measurement Books (FMB) and integrate the Registration and Survey Departments to facilitate online updation of land records and online patta transfers besides providing online access of these records to the public. **The online patta transfer system, originally piloted in select Taluks, is now ready to be launched throughout the State.** The pioneering initiative of 'Fast Track Patta Transfer Scheme' will be further streamlined to improve public services.

31. **This Government will give 3.50 lakh house site pattas during the year 2016-2017. The Government will adopt an innovative**

approach, promote multi-storied buildings and issue joint pattas to the houseless families in areas, where land is scarce and costly. The Rural Development Department will construct houses in such patta lands by adopting flexible housing designs.

32. The 'Chief Minister's Uzhavar Padhukappu Thittam', with an enhanced financial assistance has given much needed security and support to farmers. During the period from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, a sum of Rs.3,039 crore was disbursed to 37.67 lakh beneficiaries as assistance under various schemes. For this scheme, an amount of Rs.206 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget 2016-2017 and Rs.5,686 crore has been allocated for the Revenue Department.

AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION

33. Considering the vital importance of agriculture which constitutes the core of the Primary Sector, this Government has identified Agriculture and its Allied Sectors as one of the Special Focus Areas of Development, with the objective of sustainable development for improving production and productivity of farm sector and enhancing the income levels of farmers. This Government has fixed an ambitious food grain production target of 147 lakh metric tonnes during 2016-2017. Major schemes like the 'National Agriculture Development Programme' (NADP), the 'National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture', the 'National Food Security Mission', etc., are under implementation to achieve this purpose.

34. A comprehensive approach will be followed for agricultural development by encompassing the following strategies to bring in better synergy and sustainability using the funds available under various programmes.

✶ As in the past, high-end technology will be disseminated among farmers with more vigour. During 2016-2017, the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) will be followed in 27.50 lakh acres and the Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) will be adopted in 43,688 acres. Precision farming will be promoted in the cultivation of cotton and vegetables.

✶ **As promised in the Election Manifesto, a new scheme will be launched for dry land farming, focusing on improving the production and productivity of millets, pulses and oilseeds. Water conservation measures will be taken up as an integral part of this scheme. Mixed farming will be promoted in dry land areas by supporting mini-dairy and poultry units to supplement farm income.**

✶ **A special self-sufficiency Pulse Production Programme will be launched this year, specifically for promoting cultivation of**

green gram, black gram and red gram under irrigated conditions. The State has planned to bring 27.50 lakh acres of land under pulses during 2016-2017, aiming for an overall production of 9.80 lakh metric tonnes. I am confident that these measures will help us to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses production in the State.

✶ The policy of providing subsidies to micro irrigation will be continued. **During 2016-2017, micro irrigation will be adopted in 28,540 acres of agricultural crops and in 86,707 acres of horticultural crops at a total cost of Rs.319 crore.**

✶ Under farm mechanisation, our present strategy of promoting farm machinery at different levels will be continued.Heavy duty machinery will be purchased and used by Agricultural Engineering Department and purchase of farm machinery with a maximum subsidy of 50 per cent will be promoted among farmers. Assisting the rural youth for setting up Agricultural Machinery Custom Hiring Centres with 40 per cent subsidy will be pursued vigorously. So far, 212 such Custom Hiring Centres have been established at a cost of Rs.20.99 crore. During 2016-2017, another 324 Custom Hiring Centres will be established at a cost of Rs.32.45 crore. In the year 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.100 crore has been provided for promoting farm mechanisation.

35. Adoption of high-end technologies in horticulture like green house cultivation, shade net cultivation, high density plantation and precision farming will continue to be encouraged. The area under fruits and vegetables cultivation will be increased from the present level of 13.85 lakh acres to 16 lakh acres in the next five years. Cocoa, one of the most potential commercial crops, will be promoted in suitable agro-climatic zones and in coconut plantations as a multi-tier crop. An amount of Rs.518.19 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for the Department of Horticulture.

36. This Government has established the Tamil Nadu State Seed Development Agency (TANSEDA) for the supply of quality seeds for agricultural crops. The Tamil Nadu Horticulture Development Agency (TANHODA) has been supplying seeds and liquid fertilisers for horticultural crops. A sum of Rs.150 crore has also been provided as revolving fund to the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation (TANFED) for ensuring timely supply of fertilisers.

37. A special project for Supply Chain Management of perishable commodities like fruits and vegetables in 10 Districts at a cost of Rs.398.75 crore is under implementation. This will bring a revolutionary change in reducing the post harvest losses, besides bringing better sustainability through setting up of agro-processing industries. In future, this strategy will be adopted for the other needy Districts.

38. As a major initiative, this Government is formulating a project for upgrading and integrating the agricultural markets and linking them with commodity markets with sufficient financial support. **Necessary amendments will be brought in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1987, to improve the efficiency of agricultural markets**.

39. In order to protect farmers from the weather related risks and uncertainties, the

‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’ (PMFBY) will be implemented by this Government. A sum of Rs.239.51 crore has been provided for the year 2016-2017 as the State’s share in the Revised Budget Estimates for this scheme.

40. Storage facilities under the Co-operatives, Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) and Tamil Nadu Warehousing Corporation (TNWC) have been substantially augmented in the last five years. This has increased the flow of produce pledge loans to the farmers. We will continue our efforts to further augment the godown facilities and upgrade scientific storage through silo godowns for better storage of food grains under TNCSC in the coming years.

41. As promised in the Election Manifesto, on the very day of assuming charge, the Hon’ble Chief Minister has sanctioned the waiver of outstanding short-term crop loans, medium term (agriculture) and long term (farm sector) loans issued to small and marginal farmers by the Co-operative Institutions as on 31.03.2016. **The tentative principle and interest outstanding due to be waived has been assessed at Rs.5,780.92 crore, which will be compensated by the Government with interest in five years to Co-operatives. This will benefit 8,35,360 small farmers and 8,58,785 marginal farmers. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.1,680.73 crore has been provided for Co-operative loan waiver scheme. During 2016-2017, the Co-operatives will extend fresh crop loans to an extent of Rs.6,000 crore.**

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

42. This Government’s pioneering schemes of ‘Distribution of Milch Cows and Goats / Sheep’ at free of cost have made a significant impact on the rural economy, and have improved the income of the poor. **The unit cost of milch cow will be revised from Rs.30,000/- to Rs.35,000/-. Continuing these schemes, 12,000 milch cows to 12,000 poor women and four lakh goats / sheep to one lakh poor families will be distributed during 2016-2017.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.182.33 crore has been allocated for implementing these schemes. An allocation of Rs.25 crore has been made in the Revised

Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for the ‘Fodder Development Scheme’.

43. **During 2016-2017, this Government will upgrade 100 sub-centres into veterinary dispensaries with necessary building infrastructure.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.90.27 crore has been provided to strengthen the veterinary infrastructure with NABARD assistance. Further, a sum of Rs.25 crore is allocated for the ‘Poultry Development Scheme’ to promote broiler farms and native chicken farms in dry areas and tribal areas. Totally, a sum of Rs.1,188.97 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget 2016-2017 for Animal Husbandry Department.

DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

44. In the past five years, several infrastructure developmental projects amounting to Rs.593.65 crore have been implemented in the Dairy Sector under various schemes. These include a new dairy at Perambalur and at Tiruvannamalai, besides setting up of a new product dairy at Ambattur to handle the increasing milk procurement. These initiatives have resulted in increasing the average daily milk procurement of Aavin to 28.97 lakh litres per day and enabled Aavin to serve its 22.95 lakh milk consumers effectively. **A new product dairy will be established at a cost of Rs.45 crore at Madurai, to promote the Dairy Sector in Southern Districts. This will produce a range of milk products including ice cream.** In this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.121.69 crore has been provided for the Dairy Sector.

FISHERIES

45. The Government gives utmost importance to the safety, security and welfare of fishermen. Initiatives such as providing relief assistance of Rs.4,000/- per family during the lean fishing season and a relief amount of Rs.2,000/- per family during the fishing ban period have alleviated the hardships faced by our fisherfolk. **As promised in the Election Manifesto, the relief assistance provided under both these schemes will be enhanced to Rs.5,000/- per family.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.223 crore has been provided to implement various relief assistance schemes to fisherfolk.

46. This Government has pioneered a scheme to tap the untapped deep sea fishery resources by helping our fishermen to procure new Tuna longliners, with 50 per cent subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs.30 lakh at a total outlay of Rs.51.30 crore. So far, this scheme has benefited 94 fishermen. A sum of Rs.14.32 crore has been provided for 2016-2017 to implement this scheme.

47. **In order to alert fishermen during emergencies, the Government is providing 30,000 Distress Alert Transmitters (DAT) to fishermen at a cost of Rs.48 crore. The Government has initiated steps to provide communication network facilities and Very High Frequency (VHF) equipment to all fishing crafts at an estimated cost of Rs.62.14 crore with World Bank support.**

48. The consistent efforts of this Government to develop infrastructure for fish seed production have significantly reduced the demand-supply gap in fish seed from 25 crore to 8.73 crore. Works related to establishing four fish processing parks are under progress in Thiruvallur, Thoothukudi and Kanniyakumari Districts. Further, an amount of Rs.209.25 crore has been provided in this Revised Budget for developing fish landing facilities. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.743.79 crore has been allocated for Fisheries Department.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

49. I am pleased to inform this august House that the forest cover increase in our State is the highest among all the States in India during the latest assessment, as per the Government of India's Forest Survey of India Report, 2015. **The tree cover and valuable timber resources of the State have also been enhanced by raising teak and other plantations on canal banks, padugai lands and other lands outside the forest areas. This scheme will be implemented in Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Trichy, Madurai, Dindigul, Theni, Sivagangai and Villupuram Districts, with an allocation of Rs.52.64 crore over a period of five years commencing from 2016-2017.**

50. An expenditure of Rs.339.18 crore has been incurred under the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) assisted 'Tamil Nadu Bio diversity Conservation and Greening Project' from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016. An amount of Rs.109.51 crore has been provided for this scheme in the Revised Budget Estimates.

51. The ecological restoration and conservation of Pallikaranai wetland, and the eco-restoration works in Madhavaram, Ambattur and Korattur lakes are under progress at a total cost of Rs.74.93 crore. Following the success of the major restoration work at Chetpet lake, this Government will take up works relating to all other water bodies in and around Chennai, in a phased manner, using the funds available with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

52. **In order to improve water regime by increasing overall bio-diversity of forest in the catchment and to enhance the sustained discharge of water into Vaigai and Noyyal rivers, this Government will launch a new scheme for 'Rejuvenation of Vaigai and Noyyal Rivers' at a cost of Rs.24.58 crore.**

53. This Government has taken various measures such as erecting physical barriers in vulnerable areas, augmenting fodder resources and providing waterholes for wild animals

within the forests to reduce the man-animal conflicts and provide a sense of security to the people. **The compensation provided for loss of life and damages to crops and property due to attacks of wild animals will be enhanced and fixed on par with the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.652.78 crore has been provided for the Environment and Forests Department.

WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION

54. In the words of Thiruvalluvar, 'Nothing on earth can go on without water'. Tamil Nadu remains a water deficit State and efforts are needed for more optimum use of available resources. **The State Government will embark on a Mission for Water Resource Management to restore water bodies and revive Kudimaramath through user communities.** While continuing to augment storage capacity of dams and tanks under various externally aided projects, a massive effort will be taken up to rejuvenate the irrigation structures under the Public Works Department. Similarly, Rural Local Bodies will undertake a large scale programme to improve the Minor Irrigation tanks and irrigation structures under their control, besides cleaning up and improving ponds, ooranies and temple tanks by dovetailing funds under MGNREGS. **Initially, a sum of Rs.100 crore is set apart as incentive fund to revive Kudimaramath, which will be enhanced substantially with NABARD assistance in due course.**

55. Keeping in view the damages caused by the recent floods, as a measure of permanent flood control initiatives, **this Government will take up flood prevention works like widening the drainage channels and strengthening bunds and river banks in Cuddalore District at a cost of Rs.140 crore with the financial assistance of NABARD during 2016-2017. For other vulnerable coastal Districts like Chennai, this Government is preparing a Comprehensive Flood Protection Plan,** which will be executed in a phased manner. For the current financial year, a sum of Rs.445.19 crore has been provided for taking up projects relating to irrigation and flood control with NABARD assistance.

56. The World Bank funded 'Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project' (DRIP) is being implemented at an outlay of Rs.745.49 crore. Out of 105 dams to be rehabilitated, works have already commenced in 66 dams. In this Revised Budget, Rs.258.46 crore has been allotted for this scheme.

57. In the first phase of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted 'Climate Change Adaptation Programme', works have been taken up in the Vennar sub-basin at a cost of Rs.279 crore. The remaining works will be taken up during 2016-2017. Further, encouraged by the successful completion of Phase-I of the 'Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management' (IAMWARM) project in 61 sub basins, the Phase II of IAMWARM will be taken up with the World Bank assistance at an estimated cost of Rs.2,950 crore to extend the benefits to the uncovered sub-basins.

58. Due to the persistent and untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu achieved spectacular success in Inter-State River Water Disputes, especially, the historic verdict enabling Tamil Nadu to raise the

water level to 142 feet initially in the Mullai Periyar Dam and the Government of India's notification of the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in its Gazette.

59. This Government is of the firm view that the remedy to the water problems of the State lies only in the expeditious implementation of the interlinking of rivers at National level. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu has already taken up the inter-linking of Tamirabarani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. I urge the Union Government to initiate action for implementation of the National River Water Linkage Projects. The budgetary allocation for the Water Resources Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 is Rs.3,406.69 crore.

HIGHWAYS

60. **During 2016-2017, widening of 1,000 km of roads and improvement of 3,000 km of roads will be taken up under the 'Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme' (CRIDP).** A sum of Rs.2,800 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for this scheme. Initial rectification and maintenance works on State Highways and Major District Roads have been taken up under the 'Performance Based Maintenance Contract' (PBMC) system in Pollachi, Krishnagiri, Ramanathapuram and Thiruvallur Divisions. For continuing this scheme in the current financial year, an amount of Rs.437 crore is earmarked under the CRIDP. Further, **during 2016-2017, this Government will undertake strengthening of roads and bridges at a cost of Rs.300 crore with NABARD assistance.**

61. Considering the traffic intensity, industrial connectivity and socio-economic importance, 222 km of Major District Roads and 9 km of Other District Roads have been upgraded to State Highways. 530 km of Other District Roads and 12 km of Sugarcane Roads have been upgraded to Major District Roads. It is proposed to complete 12 Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges at a cost of Rs.375.17 crore during 2016-2017.

62. In order to reduce the traffic congestion at critical points, flyover works have been undertaken at various sites including Five Road Junction in Salem City at a cost of Rs.320 crore, AVR Roundtana and Kuranguchavadi junctions at a combined cost of Rs.111.40 crore, Thiruvagoundanur junction at a cost of Rs.26.77 crore and Athupalam and Ukkadam junctions up to Oppanakara Street in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs.121.82 crore. These works will be expedited.

63. Under Phase II of the World Bank funded 'Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project', 427 km of roads will be upgraded to two lanes with paved shoulders, 146 km will be upgraded to four lanes and 597 km of roads will be maintained. Contracts have been awarded for 10 works under Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode and 2 maintenance works under Output and Performance based Road Contract (OPRC) mode. **In the next stage, four laning and strengthening of State Highways for 30 km length of Mettupalayam-Erode road, 70 km length of Oddanchatram-Tiruppur road and 46 km length of Tirunelveli-Kollam road will be undertaken under Public Private Partnership (PPP) at a cost of Rs.1,541 crore.** In the Revised Budget 2016-2017, an amount

of Rs.1,220.28 crore has been provided for this project.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

64. The Universal Public Distribution System (PDS) followed in the State has ensured food safety net to 1.91 crore rice cardholders through 34,686 PDS outlets in the State by distributing rice free of cost. In addition, various essential commodities are also being supplied at highly subsidized prices to the common people. Works relating to the computerisation of the PDS operations and integration of Aadhaar numbers with the family card database at a cost of Rs.318.40 crore is in progress. This will enable the issue of smart cards by 2016 and will streamline the system by plugging leakages. Further, the issue of new cards, migration and mutation of card details will be done online making the process faster and simpler for the benefit of the people.

65. With the novel idea of directly linking the consumers with producers, the Farm Fresh Consumer Outlets have been set up. For transportation of these vegetables, Farm Fresh Consumer Vans have also been sanctioned. The Price Stabilisation Fund, which was established for taking up various market intervention activities, has been effectively utilized for this purpose. These market interventions have insulated common people from the rising prices of essential commodities.

ENERGY

66. This Government places the highest emphasis on the augmentation of power generation to ensure the supply of uninterrupted quality power supply. In the last five years, 8,432.50 MW additional power generation has been added to the grid by the State and Central Government agencies, through long-term and medium-term Power Purchase Agreements and through Solar power purchases. The expeditious commissioning of various thermal power projects has helped in bridging the demand-supply gap. The projects announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister are also at various stages of progress. As promised in the Election Manifesto, 13,000 MW of thermal power, 2,500 MW of hydel power and 3,000 MW of solar power will be added to the existing generation capacity in the State in the next five years. Such a turnaround in the Power Sector of the State was possible only due to the concerted efforts taken by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

67. The power transmission sector in the State is being strengthened with the assistance of externally aided projects. The Green Energy Corridor Project is being implemented with the assistance of KfW at an outlay of Rs.1,593 crore. Further, various works have been taken up under the JICA assisted Tamil Nadu Transmission System Improvement Project with an outlay of Rs.5,014 crore. The works under these projects are progressing well and an amount of Rs.1,738 crore has been included for these projects in the Revised Budget 2016-2017.

68. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has fulfilled her electoral promise by giving free power up to 100 units to all 191 lakh domestic consumers. This announcement will cause an additional commitment of Rs.1,607 crore every year to the State Government. Free power to Handloom and Powerloom weavers has also been enhanced to 200 units and 750 units respectively as promised in the Election Manifesto. The overall commitment to the State for power subsidy has thus increased to Rs.9,007 crore in the current

financial year. An amount of Rs.2,000 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for repayment of TANGEDCO's debt takeover under the Financial Restructuring Plan. In the Revised Budget Estimates, an amount of Rs.13,856 crore has been provided for the Energy Sector.

TRANSPORT

69. The public transport system is being run efficiently in the State with 20,839 scheduled services. These services have not only helped

in timely connectivity but also provided affordable transport facility to the common people. This has been made possible with an increased fleet strength of 22,948 buses. This Government has introduced small bus services by the Metropolitan Transport Corporation at Chennai for the benefit of common public. Replacement of the aged vehicles with new ones is a continuous process. **A sum of Rs.150 crore is provided as share capital and Rs.125 crore as loan assistance for the purchase of 2,000 new vehicles as replacement for old vehicles in 2016-2017.**

70. I am pleased to inform the august House that under the 'Senior Citizen's Bus Pass Scheme', so far, 2.49 lakh identity cards have been issued to the senior citizens for free travel in Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses. During the current financial year, this Government has provided Rs.505.35 crore as Student Concession Subsidy and Rs.200 crore as Diesel Subsidy in the Budget. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.1,295.08 crore has been allocated to Transport Department.

TOURISM

71. I am happy to inform the house that our State has been ranked first, both in domestic and foreign tourist arrivals. Aggressive marketing campaigns will be conducted to further popularize the tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu. Tourism circuits covering various themes like heritage tourism, religious tourism, eco-tourism and health tourism will be promoted and strengthened besides encouraging new tourism promotion activities like heli-tourism, water sports activities, etc. Necessary infrastructure will be created for such circuits eliciting the participation of private investors. Site museums and information centres will be set up in World famous tourism destinations.

72. Infrastructure development at tourist places is being improved under the Asian Development Bank funded 'Infrastructure Development Investment Programme for Tourism' in the State. An amount of Rs.33.62 crore has been spent so far under this project and Rs.53.20 crore has been provided for this project in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. A sum of Rs.85.80 crore has

been provided for Tourism Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

HINDU RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS

73. **The scheme of Annadhanam is being implemented in 724 temples in the State, which will be extended to another 30 temples during 2016-2017. Repair and renovation of 500 village temples and 500 temples in Adi Dravidar habitations and Tribal areas will be taken up during the current financial year at a cost of Rs.10 crore.** In the last five years, renovation of 143 temples has been taken up at a cost of Rs.16.72 crore using the Common Good Fund and 135 temple cars have been renovated under the Temple Car Renovation Fund to revive various car festivals in the State. Under the 'Orukala Pooja' scheme, the deposit amount for each temple has been increased to one lakh rupees and 12,504 temples have been benefited in the last five years.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

74. Chennai has become a hub for the Information Technology and Information Technology enabled Services (IT / ITeS). Over 50 Multi National Companies (MNCs) are having their global facilities in Chennai. Software exports have grown steadily at around 10 to 12 per cent per annum and are expected to have touched Rs.95,000 crore in 2015-2016. Subsequent to the Global Investors Meet 2015, M/s. Ford Motors, USA is in the process of establishing its Research & Development Centre at Chennai, the first such global centre outside USA. Due to the impetus given to the growth of IT industries in Southern Tamil Nadu, M/s. Honeywell, M/s. HCL Technologies, M/s. Zoho Corporation and M/s. Syntel are establishing their facilities in Southern Tamil Nadu.

75. The Government has been implementing the innovative scheme of providing laptop computers to the students studying in Government and Government-aided schools and colleges, with a view to bridge the digital divide and provide equal opportunity to all. **This scheme will be continued and 5.35 lakh students will be provided with laptop computers during 2016-2017.** A sum of Rs.890 crore is provided for this scheme in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

76. Tamil Nadu has been emerging as the most preferred destination for manufacturing, trade and services in the Country. This Government has taken important steps for improving the ease of doing business to attract more investments. Multiple incentives, including capital and tax subsidies and infrastructure in the form of Industrial Parks, road connectivity and power supply, have been provided in well structured packages for attracting investments to the State. I am happy to note that, the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) has also agreed to fund the second phase of the 'Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme' (TNIPP) with an outlay of Rs.1,560 crore to improve the investment environment.

77. The first ever Global Investors Meet in Tamil Nadu held at Chennai in September 2015 was a stupendous success, resulting in attracting potential investments of Rs.2.42 lakh crore with an employment potential for 4.70 lakh persons. So far, investments totalling Rs.23,258 crore have materialised and have generated employment for 48,145 persons.

As already announced, this Government is committed to conducting the Global Investors Meet once in every two years and the next meet is due in 2017. These events will not only help the State to showcase the success stories but also act as catalysts to attract investments and push forward all round sustainable industrial development.

78. State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) has been taking all efforts for creating a land bank for industrial development with an area of about 19,000 acres in the nine Southern Districts viz., Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Sivagangai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari. The Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor project will help us to bring an investment of about Rs.25,000 crore with an employment potential for one lakh persons. I am happy to inform that the SIPCOT has also initiated action for implementing this project by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle i.e. Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited and has expedited the land acquisition process.

79. This Government is also in the process of developing Ponneri Industrial Node as a National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) under the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor Project. Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), in association with the SIPCOT, is establishing a Polymer Industries Park in about 306 acres of land in Ponneri Taluk of Thiruvallur District at a total cost of Rs.294 crore. This will accommodate about 84 medium and small scale plastic component manufacturing units. Approval has also been granted for the implementation of an aerospace park in an area of about 250 acres in SIPCOT Industrial Park at Vallam Vadagal in Sriperumbudur Taluk. This will accommodate aerospace engineering, production and maintenance of aerospace

components, repair and overhauling facilities for Avionics.

80. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.2,104.49 crore has been allocated to the Industries Department.

MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

81. Recognizing its role as a major employment provider, this Government has identified the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector as one of the Special Focus Areas of Development to provide special support for increasing investment, infrastructure development, technology up-gradation and skill development initiatives. I am glad to inform that out of 10,073 Memoranda of Understanding signed during Global Investors' Meet, 3,029 cases worth of Rs.2,599.93 crore investments have materialised so far.

82. The Government will continue to extend 25 per cent capital subsidy up to Rs.30 lakh, besides extending interest subvention benefit of three per cent to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. It will continue to support promotion of private industrial clusters through trade associations to develop their infrastructure with State Government grant. For the year 2016-2017, Rs.12 crore and Rs.60 crore have been allocated for interest subvention and infrastructure support respectively.

83. The Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) of Tamil Nadu has been training entrepreneurs under the 'Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme' (UYEGP) and the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP). A sum of Rs.15 crore is earmarked to fund the programme in flood affected areas of Chennai under UYEGP. During 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.30 crore is provided under UYEGP.

84. The 'New Entrepreneurship-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme' (NEEDS), a pioneering initiative of this Government, had been designed to promote entrepreneurship amongst first generation entrepreneurs. **This scheme will be extended to major educational institutions for executing 'Start up Action Plan' activities at a cost of one crore rupees to create a vibrant start up eco-system in Tamil Nadu.** An amount of Rs.100 crore has been allocated for implementing this scheme in this Revised Budget 2016-2017.

85. An amount of Rs.348.22 crore has been allocated to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

HANDLOOMS, HANDICRAFTS, TEXTILES AND KHADI

86. Under the 'Free Distribution of Dhoties and Sarees' scheme, 167.81 lakh dhoties and 167.89 lakh sarees will be supplied during Pongal festival, 2017. The Rebate Subsidy Scheme is being continued in the State with the twin objectives of facilitating continuous assured employment to handloom weavers and promoting handloom cloth. An amount of Rs.487.45 crore and Rs.78.45 crore for Free Distribution of Dhoties and Sarees Scheme and Rebate Subsidy Scheme respectively have been included in this Revised Budget.

87. A sum of Rs.1,129.74 crore has been provided for the Handlooms and Textiles Sector and Rs.174.27 crore has been provided for Handicrafts and Khadi Sector in the Revised Budget.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

88. The vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is to transform rural areas by improving the quality of infrastructure through a multitude of schemes for housing, connectivity, drinking water, construction and renovation of public buildings. It is indeed a great accomplishment to cover all the 79,394 habitations in 12,524 Village Panchayats with essential basic amenities under the commendable initiative of the 'Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement' (THAI) scheme. This scheme will be continued to upgrade the basic amenities by dovetailing the resources available under the State Finance Commission grants.

89. Tamil Nadu has been implementing the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' (MGNREGS) in true spirit and the State's performance has been recognized every year by the Central Government through various awards at National level. The State has been channelizing these funds to create assets like farm ponds, construction of toilets, tree planting, poultry sheds and cattle sheds in villages. These initiatives have secured the State an award for 'Exhibition of Best Practices' under the MGNREGS for the year 2015-2016 also. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.7,155 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

90. In the Primary and Middle Schools in rural areas, basic infrastructure facilities such as new buildings, kitchen sheds, water supply and toilets are being created under the 'Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme' (CSIDS). This will be continued with an amount of Rs.100 crore during 2016-2017. The 'Tamil Nadu Rural Roads Improvement Scheme' (TNRRIS), launched in 2015-2016 to take up works relating to improvement of road infrastructure, will be continued during 2016-2017 by dovetailing funds from various schemes. In continuation of the road works taken up under the Pradhan

Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Phase-IX amounting to Rs.357.12 crore during 2015-2016, improvement of 573 roads and 22 bridges will be taken up under the PMGSY Phase-X in the current year at a total cost of Rs.758.44 crore.

91. Under the 'Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme' (MLACDS), a sum of Rs.470 crore has been earmarked for the year 2016-2017.

92. The budgetary allocation for rural development has been enhanced to Rs.21,186.58 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

93. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had launched the 'Integrated Urban Development Mission' (IUDM) and 'Chennai Mega City Development Mission' (CMCDM) in 2011-2012, to strengthen the infrastructure and improve basic amenities in urban areas. These State schemes will be continued with an amount of Rs.500 crore each by dovetailing of funds. An amount of Rs.886 crore is provided for IUDM and Rs.800 crore for CMCDM in the Revised Budget Estimates for various works including spill over works.

94. Chennai and Coimbatore cities have already been selected under the 'Smart Cities Programme', and will get a fund of Rs.100 crore per city each year for five years from the Government of India. An equivalent amount will be provided by this Government as State's share for this scheme. Under the 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT), projects worth Rs.3,316.22 crore have been approved during 2015-2016 for 32 Cities. For the year 2016-2017, projects worth Rs.3,834.49 crore are being proposed for implementation. In this Revised Budget 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.400 crore has been provided for Smart Cities Programme and Rs.500 crore for AMRUT scheme.

95. Consequent to the successful implementation of the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Programme-III, the 'Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Programme' (TNSUDP) has been launched with an outlay of Rs.3,831 crore. Under this programme, 13

projects have been taken up in 8 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) at a cost of Rs.2,212.89 crore. In this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.399.39 crore has been allocated for TNSUDP.

96. This Government is giving special priority to the implementation of underground sewerage systems in major urban local bodies. Twenty underground sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.1,017.09 crore, to benefit a population of 14.41 lakh, are under various stages of progress. In addition, three underground sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs.205.23 crore are at tender stage and works will be started during this year.

97. In this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, totally a sum of Rs.11,820 crore has been allocated for Municipal Administration Department.

HOUSING FOR THE POOR

98. With an aim to create hut-free villages and slum-free cities in the State, **the Government will take up housing programmes on a massive scale under the State Mission of Housing for the Poor. As promised in the Election Manifesto, this Government, under the legendary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, will construct ten lakh houses in the next five years in the State under various schemes.**

99. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)' (Rural) the Government of India has allotted 45,788 houses as special allocation for flood areas at a unit cost of Rs.70,000/- and 1,31,831 houses as regular allotment at a unit cost of Rs.1.20 lakh, of which, 40 per cent is shared by the State Government. **However, in order to have uniformity, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has liberally raised the unit cost for all the houses to Rs.1.70 lakh per house, including the roofing cost of Rs.50,000/- provided by the State Government. Under this scheme, this Government would construct totally 1,77,619 houses in rural areas at a total cost of Rs.3,095.62 crore in 2016-2017 itself, of which Rs.1,908.47 crore will be the State's share.** Considering the substantial increase in

the number of houses proposed to be taken up under the PMAY (Rural), **20,000 houses will be constructed under the 'Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme', during 2016-2017 at a cost of Rs.420 crore.**

100. In order to rehabilitate the slum families and to provide housing for the houseless poor in urban areas, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has constructed 59,023 tenements at a cost of Rs.2,753.42 crore in the last five years. Another 10,537 tenements are under construction. To continue these efforts, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board will construct 23,476 houses during 2016-2017 for which approval has already been given.

Further, the State Government will also constitute a 'Shelter Fund', dedicated to finance housing projects to rehabilitate the urban poor. In the Revised Budget 2016-2017, an allocation of Rs.689 crore has been made for the 'Housing for All' scheme.

MISSION FOR CLEAN TAMIL NADU

101. With an objective to create clean villages and cities, the Government is launching the 'Mission for Clean Tamil Nadu'. This State Mission will create awareness to use toilets and will also help to establish modern Solid Waste Management systems. The resources under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' will be effectively dovetailed with the State schemes to improve sanitation and achieve the goal of an 'Open Defecation Free' Tamil Nadu.

102. Under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' (Gramin) in 2016-2017, 7.66 lakh household toilets and 50 public sanitary complexes will be taken up in the State. Self Help Groups are being engaged in all the Village Panchayats to motivate the construction and use of toilets. In the last two years, Integrated Solid Waste Management has been taken up in 9,000 Village Panchayats through convergence with MGNREGS. For collection, segregation and disposal of waste, currently 52,998 Thooimai Kaavalars are being engaged in these villages, and have been provided with 22,704 tri-cycles. In 2016-2017, the remaining 3,524 Village Panchayats will be taken up under this scheme, thereby giving a universal coverage for solid waste management in rural areas. A sum of Rs.150 crore is provided for Solid Waste Management under the State devolution grants.

103. At present, integrated Solid Waste Management projects are under implementation in 402 Urban Local Bodies at a cost of Rs.833.22 crore. For achieving better sanitation and solid waste management in urban areas, Rs.200 crore is allocated under the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' (Urban). Further, to improve the general cleanliness of cities, a sum of Rs.100 crore has been provided for the Solid Waste Management Fund under the State devolution grants for the year 2016-2017.

WATER SUPPLY

104. Ensuring the supply of adequate potable drinking water is a challenge in a water deficit State like Tamil Nadu. But this Government is striving hard to augment the resources and supply potable drinking water. For Chennai City, preliminary works are underway to establish a 400 MLD desalination plant at Perur in South Chennai at a cost of Rs.3,227.84 crore and another 150 MLD desalination plant at Nemmeli at a cost of Rs.1,258.88 crore with the financial assistance of JICA and KfW respectively. The demand-supply gap of drinking water will be further reduced on completion of ongoing new reservoir project at Thervai Kandigai in Thiruvallur District and major renovation works taken up in four lakes, namely, Cholavaram, Nemam, Porur and Ayanambakkam. These steps will enhance the combined drinking water storage capacity for Chennai from the existing 1,474 million cubic ft. to 2,542 million cubic ft.

105. Even though the Central Government has substantially reduced its allocation for the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), this Government continues to take up various water supply schemes in rural areas by providing State funds. In this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.405.19 crore for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Rs.186.35 crore for Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Rs.450 crore for water supply schemes with NABARD assistance have been provided.

106. Currently, works relating to eleven major Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSS) are in progress at an estimated cost of Rs.2,888.26 crore. In addition, 18 CWSS at a cost of Rs.644.01 crore are also at preliminary stages of implementation. Besides this, 22 stand alone urban water supply improvement schemes at a cost of Rs.480.76 crore are at various stages of progress. During 2016-2017, four stand alone urban water supply improvement schemes will be taken up at a cost of Rs.373.82 crore.

DEVOLUTION TO LOCAL BODIES

107. A share of State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) is being devolved to local bodies as grants to enhance the financial capacity of local bodies and make them self-reliant. As per the Fourth State Finance Commission (SFC) recommendations, Rs.4,995.66 crore and Rs.3,617.55 crore have been provided as devolutionary grants to Rural Local Bodies and Urban Local Bodies respectively in the current financial year. Further, under the Fourteenth Central Finance Commission, local bodies in the State will receive Rs.2,406.14 crore as General Basic Grants and Rs.494.99 crore as General Performance Grants during the current financial year. Totally, **Local Bodies in the State will receive a total amount of Rs.11,514.34 crore as Finance Commissions grants in 2016-2017, which will be higher by Rs.2,163.24 crore when compared to the last year grants.**

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

108. The elections to Local Bodies are due in October 2016. Considering the importance of women empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has enhanced the reservation for women in local body posts to 50 per cent. An amount of Rs.183.24 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for conducting Local Body elections.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL PROJECT

109. I am happy to note that substantial progress has been achieved in the implementation of Phase-I of the Chennai Metro Rail Project covering a distance of 45 km. In addition to the 10.15 km elevated stretch from Koyambedu to Alandur, which has already been inaugurated, passenger services in the remaining elevated stretches from Little Mount to Airport and from Alandur to St. Thomas Mount will commence shortly. The passenger services in the first underground stretch will also commence by the end of this year.

110. The untiring efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister have resulted in obtaining Government of India's approval for the extension of Corridor-I of Chennai Metro Rail from Washermenpet to Thiruvottriyur / Wimco Nagar at an estimate of Rs.3,770 crore. I am pleased to inform this august House that this extension project of Metro Rail has already been included in the rolling plan for JICA assistance. This Government will expedite the proposal for Phase-II of the Metro Rail covering two more corridors for a stretch of 104.50 km. I hope that these efforts will strengthen the Metro Rail network in Chennai, thereby providing a world class public transport system.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

111. As a measure to make primary healthcare accessible to the people, this Government will establish 37 new Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and upgrade 24 existing PHCs into 30 bedded PHCs during 2016-2017. An amount of Rs.1,423.38 crore is allocated under the 'National Health Mission' (NHM) for the year 2016-2017, to take up projects including establishment of new Maternal and Child Health Wings at Cuddalore and Tiruppur at a cost of Rs.20 crore each; strengthening of existing trauma care units at Tambaram, Krishnagiri and Villupuram at a cost of Rs.10 crore each.

112. This Government has undertaken the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) assisted 'Tamil Nadu Urban Health Care Project' with a total outlay of Rs.1,634 crore to augment secondary care and tertiary care services in Government Hospitals. Under this project, 10 Government Medical College Hospitals, seven District Headquarters Hospitals and four other Government Hospitals would be strengthened with world class diagnostic equipment and infrastructure. I am happy to inform this House that the State's performance in the 'Deceased Organ Transplant Programme' has received National accolades and Tamil Nadu has won the Best State Award in the Country. So far, 2,652 major organs have been harvested from 828 donors and used for patients.

113. The 'Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme' has ensured quality tertiary care services to 1.58 crore families in private and Government hospitals. So far, about 15.41 lakh patients have availed treatment costing Rs.3,192 crore and Government Hospitals have earned about Rs.1,138 crore, which have been utilised for improving their infrastructure facilities. This scheme will be continued with a budgetary allocation of Rs.928 crore in the Revised Budget 2016-2017.

114. 'Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme', aimed at improving the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the State, has benefited 34.57 lakh pregnant women since

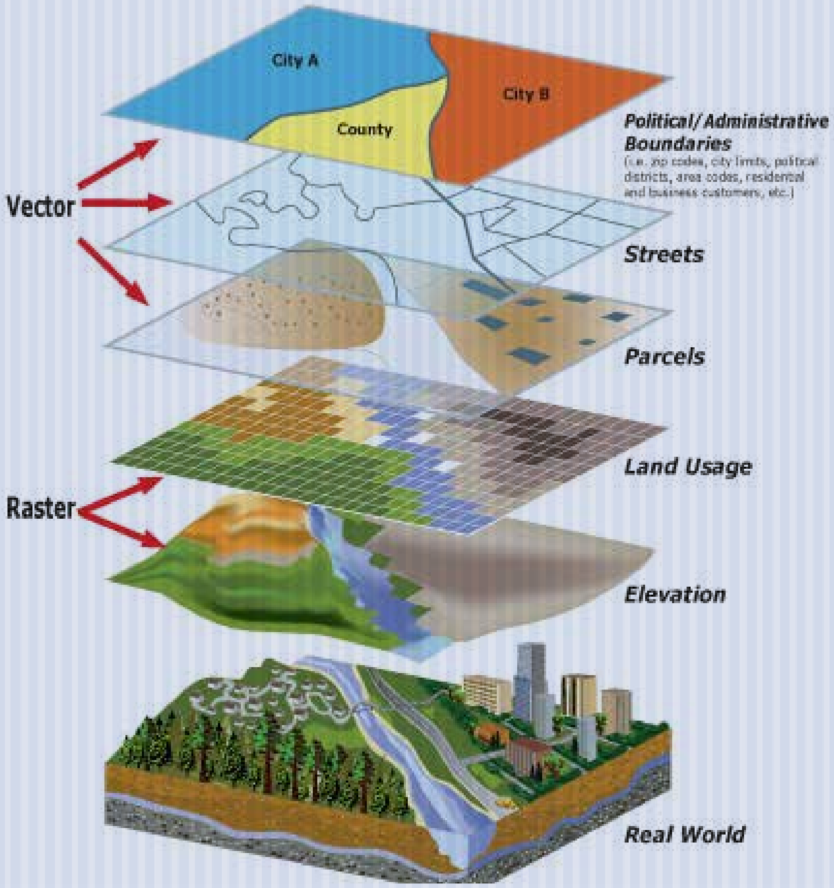
May 2011 at a cost of Rs.3,239 crore. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.668 crore has been allocated for this scheme. The 'Menstrual Hygiene Programme' will be continued with an annual budgetary allocation of Rs.61 crore. The Government will continue its innovative welfare schemes of 'Amma Baby Care Kit', 'Amma Magapperu Sanjeevi' and 'Amma Arogiya Thittam'.

115. In this Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.9,073 crore has been allocated to the Health Department.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

116. The vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is to provide easy access and quality education to all children in the State. Opening of new schools, upgradation of existing schools using the Geographic Information System (GIS) based school mapping tool has ensured enrolment of all children in the schools. The teacher : pupil ratio in Government schools has consistently improved to 1:25 at primary level, 1:24 at upper primary level, 1:26 at secondary level and 1:37 at higher secondary level as against the National norm of 1:30, 1:35, 1:40 and 1:45 respectively.

117. High thrust is given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for providing sufficient number of toilets in schools and maintenance of such toilets. Continuing the efforts of the last five years, 4,339 units of toilets will be provided in the year 2016-2017 in elementary and high schools at a cost of Rs.59.25 crore. The long felt need for maintenance of clean toilets in all schools has been addressed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister by way of providing funds amounting to Rs.57.63 crore through local bodies during 2015-2016 exclusively for this purpose. This programme will be continued in the year 2016-2017 also. This initiative has been appreciated by the Government of India and has been set as a model for all other States. For infrastructure improvement in schools like classrooms, toilets and drinking water facilities with NABARD assistance, an amount of Rs.333.61 crore has been provided in this Revised Budget Estimates.



118. The Government has provided access to children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections to private schools under the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act' which has benefited 2,31,404 children so far. During the current year, 86,199 children have been admitted in private schools. An amount of Rs.125.70 crore has been provided in this Revised Budget Estimates for this purpose.

119. In order to ensure effective implementation of the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' (SSA) and 'Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan' (RMSA), the State Government continues to ensure adequate fund flow to the Mission Societies, although the Government of India's share of Rs.848 crore due for the year 2015-2016 is yet to be received under these schemes. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.2,329.15 crore under the SSA and Rs.1,139.52 crore under the RMSA have been provided.

120. The Government will continue to provide laptop computers, free textbooks, notebooks, educational kits, four sets of uniform, footwear, school bags, bus passes and bicycles, etc. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.2,705 crore has been allocated for these purposes.

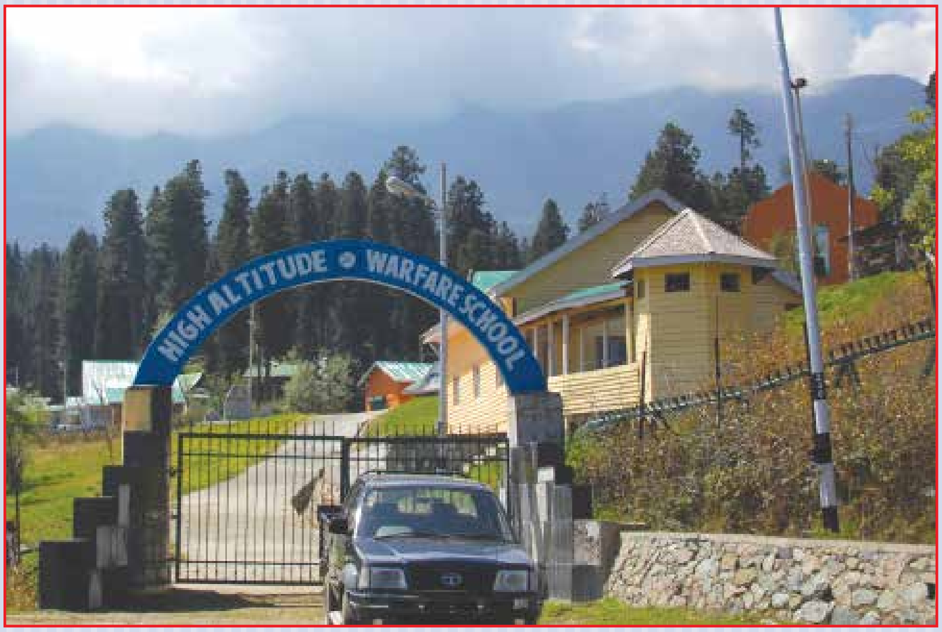
121. As a result of these initiatives taken by the State, the Dropout Rate (DR) has reduced to 0.90 at primary level, 1.55 at upper primary level and 3.76 at secondary level during 2015-2016. In order to further reduce dropout among girls in classes X, XI and XII in Government and Government aided schools, the special cash incentive scheme will be continued. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.381 crore has been allocated for special cash incentive scheme.

122. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a total amount of Rs.24,130 crore has been allocated for School Education.

HIGHER EDUCATION

123. The Government is taking strenuous efforts in making the State a knowledge capital and innovation hub. In striving to achieve an even higher Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), the Government will establish new colleges in the needy places to improve access to higher education particularly for girls. The special efforts taken by this Government are yielding results and I am glad to note that the enrolment of students in higher education has improved substantially to 44.80 per cent; especially the number of girls and Scheduled Caste students has increased respectively from 2,51,211 and 84,660 in 2010-2011 to 3,01,110 and 1,36,877 in 2015 2016. To motivate the students from educationally backward families to pursue higher education, the scheme of reimbursement of tuition fees to the first generation students will be continued in 2016-2017 with a budgetary allocation of Rs.582.58 crore. To improve the infrastructure facilities of colleges, Rs.233 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

124. The Government has also set apart Rs.357.12 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for sanctioning grants to the Universities, including Rs.152.97 crore to the Annamalai University. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.3,679.01 crore has been allocated for the Higher Education Department.



YOUTH WELFARE AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

125. This Government, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, has given a big boost to sports infrastructure. Orders have been issued for establishing a High Altitude Training Centre at Udhagamandalam at a cost of Rs.5 crore. Revamping of Aquatic Complex at Velachery, Chennai at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore is under progress. An amount of Rs.25.12 crore has been provided for 15 District level multi-purpose stadia, Rs.10.50 crore for renovation of existing Sports Complexes, Rs.30.19 crore for conducting the Chief Minister's Trophy and Rs.75.15 crore for conducting Village Games in 12,524 Village Panchayats. A sum of Rs.153.39 crore has been allocated in this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for sports and sport related activities.

ADIDRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE

126. In the Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.12,462 crore has been allocated for the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP), which is 20.56% of Annual Plan outlay and Rs.722 crore for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), which is 1.19% of Annual Plan.

127. At present, 1,314 AdiDravidar hostels with a total strength of 98,039 students and 42 Tribal hostels with 2,782 students and 306 Government Tribal Residential schools with a strength of 30,933 students are functioning under the management of AdiDravidar and Tribal Welfare Department. **Construction of buildings for 81 hostels is in progress and for the balance 24 hostels functioning in private rental buildings, this Government will take up the construction of new hostel buildings at a total cost of Rs.27.48 crore, thereby ensuring that all hostels in the State will function in Government buildings. This Government will provide idly cooker-cum-steam boilers and washing machines to all hostels in the next two years. This will fulfil yet another electoral promise.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, a sum of Rs.103.15 crore has been allocated for feeding charges and a sum of Rs.83.80 crore has been provided for improving infrastructure facilities and hostel maintenance.

128. For improving the enrolment rate of girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a sum of Rs.55.11 crore has been allocated to provide incentives to enrol girl children in schools during 2016-2017. The extension of the Post-Matric Scholarship scheme to all the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students studying in private self-financing colleges has benefited 7.76 lakh students during 2015-2016. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, Rs.75.61 crore and Rs.1,429.94 crore have been provided for pre-matric and post matric scholarships respectively.

129. To continue the scheme of distributing cycles free of cost to students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes studying in 11th Standard in Government and Government-Aided schools, an amount of Rs.64.86 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates.

130. Various income generating activities have been taken up for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes, through Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation (TAHDCO). For this purpose, an amount of Rs.130 crore has been allocated under Special Central Assistance (SCA) during the year 2016-2017.

131. The 'Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme' (CTDP) was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in 2011-2012. For taking up various infrastructure facilities, income generating activities, etc., under CTDP, this Government has allocated Rs.50 crore during 2016-2017. Further, **infrastructure in tribal schools run by the Forest Department will be improved at a cost of Rs.12 crore with NABARD assistance.** In this Revised Budget Estimates, Rs.28.80 crore and Rs.7 crore have been allocated for the development of particularly vulnerable tribes living in the State and for the implementation of the 'Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana', respectively.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES, MOST BACKWARD CLASSES AND DENOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

132. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.21.40 crore has been provided for pre-matric scholarships and Rs.186.56 crore has been provided for post-matric scholarships for the benefit of 6.96 lakh students from Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities.

133. At present, there are 1,338 hostels functioning with 84,314 inmates. Of these, 1,195 hostels are functioning in own buildings and the construction of new buildings for 107

hostels are in progress. **For the remaining 36 hostels, this Government will take up construction of buildings at a cost of Rs.76.96 crore during 2016-2017, to ensure that all the hostels function in Government buildings. The Government will provide idly cooker-cum-steam boilers and washing machines to all the hostels in the next two years.** A sum of Rs.70.64 crore has been provided for food charges during 2016-2017.

134. This Government has been distributing cycles free of cost to students of the Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities and other Communities studying in 11th Standard in Government and Government-Aided schools. An amount of Rs.168.04 crore has been allocated in the Revised Budget for this purpose.

135. A sum of Rs.104.40 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget for the 290 Kallar Reclamation Schools functioning in Madurai, Theni and Dindigul Districts.

LABOUR WELFARE

136. There are 17 unorganised workers welfare boards including Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board. So far, 66.97 lakh workers have registered under the various unorganized workers welfare boards and 16,684 inter-State migrant workers have been registered in the Construction Workers Welfare Board. Members of the Unorganised Workers Welfare Boards have been provided with social security benefits to an extent of Rs.125.90 crore during 2015-2016. Steps are being taken to enable unorganised sector workers to register online and get welfare benefits. An amount of Rs.70 crore has been provided as grants to Unorganised Workers Welfare Boards in this Revised Budget Estimates. A sum of Rs.152.76 crore is allotted for the Labour Welfare Department in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

SOCIAL WELFARE

137. Various welfare schemes have been taken up for the security and upliftment of the vulnerable sections of the society such as children, women, transgender, senior citizens and destitutes. The pioneering schemes such as the 'Girl Child Protection Scheme' and the 'Cradle Baby Scheme' launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister during 1992, have provided adequate security to the abandoned children. A sum of Rs.140.50 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 for these schemes.

138. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already enhanced the gold for Thirumangalayam under the Marriage Assistance Schemes to eight grams. This will further encourage girls to pursue higher studies and to prevent early marriage, thereby paving the way for their economic liberation. In this Revised Budget, an amount of Rs.703.16 crore has been provided for all marriage assistance schemes.

139. Under the 'Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme', 26.88 lakh children in the primary school, 28.17 lakh children in the middle and high schools are being served with variety meals. A sum of Rs.1,644.52 crore has been provided for Nutritious Meal Programme in this Revised Budget. Under the 'Integrated Child Development Services' (ICDS) scheme, supplementary nutrition and nutritious meal are being served to 17.63 lakh children in the age group of 6 to 36 months and 13.97 lakh children in the age group of 2 to 5

years, 6.55 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers and 4.02 lakh adolescent girls. A sum of Rs.1,699.79 crore has been provided for the ICDS scheme in the Revised Budget.

140. This Government has provided a unique social security net to senior citizens and other disadvantaged sections of the society. Financial assistance of Rs.1,000/- per month is being disbursed as social security pension to all categories. In this Revised Budget, an amount of Rs.3,820 crore has been provided for social security pensions.

141. In this Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, totally a sum of Rs.4,512.32 crore has been allocated for Social Welfare Department.

WELFARE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS

142. The New Health Insurance Scheme, 2012 for employees ended on 30.06.2016. From 01.07.2016, orders have been issued for implementing the 'New Health Insurance Scheme, 2016' to provide healthcare assistance to the Government employees and their eligible family members for another four years. The scheme provides for healthcare assistance up to four lakh rupees in a block of four years to its employees and their families. As an important addition to the existing scheme, the limit has been enhanced to Rs.7.50 lakh in cases of specified serious illnesses. For this scheme, an amount of Rs.300 crore has been provided in the Revised Budget Estimates.

143. After the Union Government accepts the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission in all aspects, this Government will constitute a Committee of Officials to study it and recommend on the appropriate pay revisions in the State.

144. This Government takes pride in the scheme of Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme for the benefit of seven lakh pensioners introduced for the first time in the Country and a sum of Rs.129 crore has been allocated for the premium amount in 2016-2017. A sum of Rs.18,868 crore has been provided for pensionary and other retirement benefits in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017.

WELFARE OF SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES

145. This Government has already extended various welfare schemes, such as Marriage Assistance, Social Security Pensions, Health insurance, etc., to the Sri Lankan Tamils in various refugee camps. The cash assistance to Sri Lankan Tamils has also been substantially enhanced. These initiatives enabling them to lead a life of dignity, safety and security will be continued. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.105.98 crore has been allocated for the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees.

WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

146. Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State in implementation of the welfare schemes for differently-abled persons. This Government has reduced the eligibility percentage of disability for availing the benefit of Social Security Pension from 60 per cent to 40 per cent. For the benefit of children with various disabilities, 435 Special Schools are functioning in Tamil Nadu. Early Intervention Centres (EIC) have been established with qualified educators in 29 Districts for the hearing impaired and in

31 Districts for the mentally retarded persons. Besides this, seven EICs are functioning for the welfare of the visually impaired persons. **During 2016-2017, 1,000 retrofitted petrol scooters will be distributed free of cost to both lower limb affected differently-abled persons.** In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, an amount of Rs.396.74 crore has been allocated for the welfare of Differently-Abled persons.

MINORITIES WELFARE

147. The scheme of providing financial assistance to undertake pilgrimage to Jerusalem by Christians will be continued. The proactive steps taken for the welfare of the Muslim Community such as annual administrative grant for the Tamil Nadu Wakf Board and Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee will also be continued. Further, **as promised in the Election Manifesto, the Ulema pension will be enhanced from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.1,500/- per month**.

RESOURCES FOR FINANCING THE BUDGET

148. Now, I will turn towards the resources identified for financing the projected expenditure in the Revised Budget 2016-2017. In the last few years, the economic slowdown in the global economy has affected the National economy and State economy. The ripple effects of economic stagnation have had severe repercussions on the State resources due to slowdown in the growth of tax revenue.

149. Commercial Taxes are the most important source of the State's Own Tax Revenue. In the last few years growth in the Commercial Taxes has been very low mainly due to economic stagnation and reduced collection of Sales Tax on petroleum products. The tax collections on petroleum products were stagnant in the last three years and have registered a negative growth during 2015-2016. Considering these facts, the estimates for Commercial Taxes have been revised to Rs.67,629.45 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 as against the Interim Budget Estimates of Rs.72,326.45 crore.

150. Taking into account the State Government's decision to close down 500 TASMAC shops, the Excise Duty collection for the current financial year has been scaled down to Rs.6,636.08 crore. The receipts from Stamps fees and Registration charges has been estimated to be Rs.9,858.17 crore, whereas the Taxes on Motor Vehicles has been estimated to be Rs.4,793.91 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. The overall State's Own Tax Revenue during the current financial year has been estimated to be Rs.90,691.87 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. The receipts under State's Own Non-tax Revenue has been estimated at Rs.9,723.95 crore.

151. At the time of presentation of Interim Budget Estimates 2016-2017, the Union

Budget for 2016-2017 was not presented, so the State's share in Central Taxes devolution had been projected at Rs.23,688.11 crore by assuming a growth rate of 12 per cent over 2015-2016. However, based on the Union Budget 2016-2017, the State's share in Central Taxes for the year 2016-2017 has been reduced to Rs.23,018.12 crore. The Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India for the current financial year has been revised to Rs.24,741.15 crore taking into account the grants under the Fourteenth Finance Commission and Central Assistance to State Plan.

FISCAL INDICATORS

152. The Total Revenue Receipts under the various categories of revenue resources for 2016-2017 has been estimated at Rs.1,48,175.09 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates as against the Interim Budget Estimates of Rs.1,52,004.23 crore. However, the implementation of many new schemes such as waiver of agricultural loans of small and marginal farmers owed to the Co-operative Institutions and free power to domestic consumers up to 100 units and continuance of various welfare schemes have indeed increased the expenditure of the State. During 2016-2017, in the Revised Budget Estimates, the Revenue Expenditure has been estimated to be Rs.1,64,029.56 crore as against the Rs.1,61,159.01 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates. As a result, the Revenue Deficit for the ongoing financial year has been estimated to be Rs.15,854.47 crore. In view of this, the necessary amendments to Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 will be taken up in this Assembly session.

153. In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, the Fiscal Deficit has been estimated to be Rs.40,533.84 crore, which is 2.96 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), and is well below the limit prescribed by the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003.

154. Since the Government of India has revised the GSDP figures as per the new 2011-2012 series, the Net Borrowing Ceiling has also got revised to Rs.41,085 crore in 2016-2017. However, the budgetary borrowings have been estimated to be Rs.40,529 crore in this Revised Budget Estimates. The overall outstanding borrowings of the State has been estimated to be Rs.2,52,431 crore at the end of this financial year. As per Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, the outstanding Debt to GSDP ratio will be 18.43 per cent of GSDP.

155. The Medium Term Fiscal Plan is given as Annexure to the Revised Budget Speech. I request that this may be taken as read as part of the Revised Budget Speech.

156. The Arthashastra says ***"In the happiness of his subjects, lies the King's happiness; in their welfare his welfare; he shall not consider as good only that which please him, but treat as beneficial to him whatever pleases his subject".*** This reflects our benevolent Hon'ble Chief Minister, whose thoughts, words and deeds are all for one purpose – the welfare and prosperity of the Tamil people. Under her able leadership, the State has earned many laurels and she would take the State further to the pinnacle of success and glory. With her profound wisdom and knowledge, she has guided us to prepare every detail in this Budget and only with her unstinted support it was possible to prepare and present this Budget. I once again express my gratitude to her for this magnanimous gesture and support.

157. I convey my thanks to Thiru K. Shanmugam, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department and all other officials of the Department who have been working tirelessly on the formulation and preparation of this Revised Budget Estimates.

158. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I commend the Revised Budget Estimates for the year 2016-2017 for the approval of the Assembly.

Nandri

Vanakkam

O. PANNEERSELVAM

Minister for Finance, Personnel and Administrative Reforms

APPENDIX

MEDIUM TERM FISCAL PLAN

As per Section 3(1) of the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, the State Government shall lay before the Legislative Assembly a Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) along with the Budget. Further, as per Section 3(2) of this Act, the MTFP shall set forth a multi-year rolling target for the prescribed fiscal indicators like Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit, etc., with specification of underlying assumptions made to arrive at those projections. In accordance with the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, a Medium Term Fiscal Plan for the current financial year and next two years, i.e., from 2017-2018 is hereby placed before the Legislative Assembly.

Objectives

The MTFP has been structured with the aim of facilitating high economic growth in order to create enough fiscal space for investments in agriculture, industry and basic infrastructure, thereby enabling the State to create opportunities for the people, especially the disadvantaged, to participate in the growth process and achieve the overall objective of inclusive growth with equity.

Apart from incurring expenditure heavily on various welfare schemes, especially for social security, education, health, etc., the State has given due importance to capital expenditure for building roads & bridges, irrigation and power projects. Simultaneously, the State has to meet the ever increasing administrative expenditure, mainly due to hike in Dearness Allowance, increments, creation of new posts and filling up

of vacancies. However, the State Government is committed to achieving fiscal consolidation by complying with the roadmap setforth by the Central Finance Commission.

The MTFP will ensure the compliance of the norms of fiscal prudence, such as, containing the Revenue Deficit to the minimum, Fiscal Deficit within three per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and Outstanding Debt to GSDP ratio within the prescribed limits of the Central Finance Commission during 2016-2019 and thereafter, except for the year 2017-2018.

Future Prospects

The GSDP figures for the States have been revised based on new 2011-2012 series. Therefore, the nominal GSDP figures based on this new series have been adopted in the budget. As per the present trend, it is estimated that the growth rate of the State will be high and inflation is expected to be moderate during the current financial year.

I. Revenue Receipts

The Total Revenue Receipts of the State Government, including the Central Transfers, are estimated as Rs.1,48,175.09 crore in 2016-2017. The important components of Revenue Receipts and it's growth trends are as follows.

State's Own Tax Revenue

The State economy has been showing signs of recovery, which is evident from the improvement in GSDP growth rates from 4.85% in 2012-2013 to 6.94% in 2014-2015 as per 2011-2012 constant prices. In 2015-2016, GSDP growth rate is estimated to be at 8.79% at 2011-2012 constant prices. Considering the trend, it is also expected that the economy will further improve during the current financial year and the State would register a higher growth rate.

The State's Own Tax Revenue is Rs.86,537.70 crore as per the Revised Estimates 2015-2016. It is estimated to increase to Rs.90,691.87 crore in Revised Budget Estimates for 2016-2017. A growth rate of 13.67% and 13.58% is assumed for the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 respectively. Salient features of the major components of the State's Own Tax Revenue are as below.

✶ The receipts from the Commercial Taxes are estimated to be Rs.67,629.45 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. It has been revised due to reduction in the sales tax realisation on the petroleum products.

✶ Taking into account the impact of closure of 500 TASMAC shops during the current financial year and the present trend of receipts, the State Excise Duty collection has been estimated at Rs.6,636.08 crore during 2016-2017.

✶ Receipts from Stamp Duty and Registration Charges are expected to be Rs.9,858.17 crore during 2016-2017 as against Rs.9,469.29 crore estimated in Revised Estimates 2015-2016.

✶ For the collections under the Taxes on Motor Vehicles as against Rs.4,385 crore estimated in Revised Estimates 2015-2016, the Revised Budget Estimates for 2016-2017 are estimated at a growth rate of 9.33% and the estimates for 2016-2017 has been fixed at Rs.4,793.91 crore.

2. Non-Tax Revenue

The State's Own Non-Tax Revenue has

been estimated at Rs.9,723.95 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. Since the Government services are delivered free of cost or only at nominal fees and limited mining potential in the State, the Non-Tax Revenue has been estimated to be marginally higher than the Revised Estimates 2015-2016. A growth rate of 6% is assumed for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

3. Share in Central Taxes

The inter-se-share of Tamil Nadu has been decreasing gradually from one Finance Commission to another. The inter-se-share of Tamil Nadu from Thirteenth Finance Commission to Fourteenth Finance Commission has been reduced from 4.969% to 4.023% in the general divisible pool and from 5.047% to 4.104% in case of Service Tax pool. However, increased flows of resources are expected to be devolved to the State on account of the resource augmentation by the Central Government through revision of taxes and duties. The Share in Central Taxes for the State has been estimated at Rs.23,018.12 crore during 2016-2017 in this Revised Budget Estimates based on the projection given in the Union Budget. A growth rate of 14% is assumed for the financial year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 also.

4. Grants-in- Aid from the Union Government

The Grants-in-Aid from the Government of India have been estimated at Rs.24,741.15 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 by taking into account the Central Assistance to State Plan and Fourteenth Finance Commission grants such as contribution to State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), basic and performance grants to both rural and urban Local Bodies. From 2015-2016 onwards, the Government of India has reduced its share for many of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to 60 per cent. The Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017 has also taken into consideration of the estimated receipts of Central Sales Tax (CST) compensation from the Government of India. For the financial year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, a growth rate of 12% has been assumed.

II. Revenue Expenditure

The revenue expenditure during the ongoing financial year is estimated at Rs.1,64,029.56 crore which shows a growth of 10.99% over Revised Estimates 2015-2016. The main components are explained below:

- The allocation for salaries is Rs.45,542.18 crore and for pensions and other retirement benefits is Rs.18,868.16 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. This is 39.27% of the Total Revenue Expenditure. Considering the possible expenditure due to hikes in Dearness Allowance, increments and filling up of vacancies, a growth rate of 30% for salaries and 35% for pensions and other retirement benefits is assumed for 2017-2018 and a growth rate of 11% is assumed for both salaries and pensions for 2018-2019. The projection for the year 2017-2018 has been made based on the assumption of implementation of Seventh Pay Commission recommendations.

- For Subsidies and Grants, the allocation is Rs.68,211.05 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. This increase over Revised Estimates 2015-2016 is due to various welfare schemes like food subsidy, power subsidy, scholarships, etc. The Additional commitment due to new schemes such as waiver

of agricultural loans of small and marginal farmers owed to Co-operative Institutions and free power to domestic consumers up to 100 units has also been added under this head. Further, the enhanced devolution to Local Bodies has been included on the assumption of the growth in State's Own Tax Revenue. A growth rate of 7% is assumed for 2017-2018 and 8% for 2018-2019.

✶ Expenditure on Non-wage Operations and Maintenance is projected as Rs.10,184.69 crore in Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. This is mainly on account of maintenance, administrative expenses, fuel cost, distribution of uniform to school students, etc. A growth rate of 2% is assumed for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

✶ In the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017, the Interest Payments have been estimated as Rs.21,215.67 crore, which is 12.93% of the Total Revenue Expenditure. The ratio of Interest Payments to Total Revenue Receipts will be 14.32% in 2016-2017. This is expected to be 14.45% in 2017-2018 and 14.59% in 2018-2019.

III. Capital Expenditure

During 2016-2017, the State has given thrust to capital expenditure. As a result, the allocation for Capital Expenditure has been projected to increase from Rs.22,878.45 crore in Revised Estimates 2015-2016 to Rs.24,679.38 crore in Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. This is expected to grow further at 9.25% in 2017-2018 and 11.13% in 2018-2019.

IV. Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit

In the Interim Budget for 2016-2017, the Revenue Deficit has been estimated to be Rs.9,154.78 crore. However, due to continuing global economic slowdown, the tax revenue growth has been slow. There is significant fall in State's Own Tax Revenue growth rate, particularly in Commercial Taxes because of the reduced sales tax realization due to fall in tax revenue from petroleum products. Taking into account these factors, the Revenue Deficit has been revised to Rs.15,854.47 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates 2016-2017. Fiscal Deficit for 2016-2017 is estimated as Rs.40,533.84 crore, which is 2.96% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). In the forthcoming years, Fiscal Deficit to GSDP ratio will be 3.34% in 2017-2018 and 2.96% in 2018-2019. The State has to go for additional resource mobilization or resort to control in expenditure in order to limit Fiscal Deficit within three per cent norm while managing additional expenditure commitments during 2017-2018.

V. Borrowings

The estimates for receipt and repayment of borrowings have been finalized on the basis of the overall borrowing ceiling fixed by the Government of India based on the formula indicated by 14th Finance Commission. The Net Borrowing Ceiling fixed by the Government of India has got revised from Rs.37,782 crore to Rs.41,085 crore in 2016-2017 due to revision in the GSDP figures according to 2011-2012 series. The net budgetary borrowings during 2016-2017 is estimated as Rs.40,529 crore. The outstanding debt including provident fund will be Rs.2,52,431 crore as on 31.03.2017. This will constitutes only 18.43% of GSDP.

VI. Guarantees

The outstanding guarantees for each year

have to be restricted at a level of 100 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year or 10 per cent of the GSDP, whichever is lower. The outstanding guarantees as on 31.03.2015 was 49.70 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year and 4.91 per cent of GSDP. The outstanding risk weighted guarantees for each year have to be kept at a level of 75 per cent of the Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year or 7.5 per cent of GSDP whichever is lower. The outstanding risk weighted guarantees as on 31.03.2015 stood at 9.28 per cent of Total Revenue Receipts in the preceding year and 0.92 per cent of GSDP.

Conclusion

The economic recovery is evident from the GSDP growth rates in real terms from 2012-2013 onwards which was at 4.85% to 8.79% in 2015-2016.

However, on the Revenue side, there is a significant fall in the growth of the State's Own Tax Revenue, particularly in Commercial Taxes, which has impacted the revenue receipts severely. Further, the reduced share in Central devolution, delay in reimbursement of Grants-in-Aid from Government of India, in addition to reduced Central share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes have caused further strain on the State Finances. However, the trends in expenditure are steady. In spite of these constraints on Revenue Receipts, the overall Fiscal Deficit, net borrowings and outstanding debt-GSDP ratio will be within the permissible limits except Fiscal Deficit during 2017-2018. The State Government has been taking all necessary steps to put the economy back on the growth path.

Chief Minister's swift action averts anxiety on students' safety

Following media reports over the safety of students in the wake of the sudden military coup in Turkey, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa directed officials to ascertain the safety of the 11 Tamil Nadu students who had gone to Trabzon city in that country to participate in inter-school games competitions and take appropriate action for their safety through the Indian Embassy there. The Tamil Nadu team was part of the Indian contingent of 148 students.

Tamil Nadu Government officials got in touch with the officials at the Indian Embassy in Turkey who conveyed the information that all the Indian students were safe and they would return to India safely after the competitions were over on 18.07.2016. Hence, parents of these students need not entertain any fear or concern over their wards.

Name ‘Madras High Court’ as ‘Tamil Nadu High Court’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, moving a special Government Resolution in the Legislative Assembly on 01.08.2016, urged the Central Government to change the appellation ‘Madras High Court’ to ‘Tamil Nadu High Court’ in its draft Bill.

Hon’ble Speaker,

The Tamil race has a hoary past, synonymous with Creation itself. Several languages are spoken in the world. Mother Tamil has a speciality of her own, not found in many other languages. Tamil language is replete with words; they have an unique sound; they have felicity of expression. There are many other attributes to the language. Savants of Tamil Language divided the language into three – Iyal, Isai and Nadagam – even in ancient times and brought about a uniqueness to the language. The Tamil language has beautiful words whose sound is akin to the melody of yazh (veena) and kuzhal (flute).

Tamil Nadu has a history of marine trade that dates back to several thousand years. Tamil Nadu has a place high in education. Tamil Nadu fostered righteousness. Tamil Nadu is the cradle for the the sense of sacrifice. Tamil Nadu is a valiant country. Tamil Nadu cherishes and patronizes all religions. By presenting Valluvar to the world, Tamil Nadu attained immense reputation. Tamil Nadu respects art. Tamil Nadu accommodates and provides livelihood to those who come to her.

The word ‘Thamizhan’ does not have a parallel word as it connotes a race with a long history and tradition and inherently denoting an ancient civilization and culture. Tamils have an emotional attachment to Tamil language and Tamil Nadu. That is why, Namakkal Kavignar Ramalingam Pillai sang: ‘Thamizhan enroru inamundu; thaniye averkoru gunamundu ‘ (there is a race by name Thamizhan and they have a unique quality).

From ancient days, the area where the people speak Tamil language is known as Tamil Nadu. Three thousand years ago, Panampaaranaar who gave a preface in verse to Tholkappiyam marked the boundaries of Tamil Nadu as 'Vadavenkatam Thenkumari Aayidai/ Thamizh Kooru Nallulagam' (On the north Venkatam and on the south Kumari; the land in between is Tamil Nadu). In Silappadikaram, it is said: 'Imizh Kadal Varaippil Thamizhagam Ariya/Thamizh muzhuthu arindha thanmayan aagi'. (Madhavi's musician 'was aware of the poetic quality known in the whole of Tamil country having the roaring seas as its eastern and western limits'). Mahakavi Bharathiyar and Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidaasan have extolled the greatness of Tamil Nadu, respectively, thus: 'Senthamizh Naadennum Pothiniley/ Inba thaen vandhu paayuthu kaadhiniley (When the word 'sethamizh naadu is uttered, nectar flows into the ears); 'Thamizh Naade Vaazhga – em/ Amizhthaagiya Iyal,Isai,Kootthennum/ Thamizhaagiya Uyirthazhaiyu vizhumiya/ Thamizh Naade Vaazhga. (Hail Tamil Nadu; Hail the great Tamil Nadu that nourishes our life breath, the nectarine Tamil with its three divisions – prose, poetry and drama).

But, in the Indian Constitution and after the linguistic division of the States, Tamil Nadu is mentioned as Madras State. When many people agitated for changing the name as Tamil Nadu, Sankaralinganar undertook a fast for the cause and died. Perarignar Anna moved a resolution in this House for changing the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu. In his reply to the debate on the resolution, he mentioned that a memorial should be raised to Sankaralinganar. By way of translating Perarignar Anna's wish into action, a Manimandapam was erected in Virudhunagar District for Tyagi Sankaralinganar and I declared it open on 19.6.2015.

The then Chief Minister Perarignar Anna moved the resolution for altering the name Madras State in the Indian Constitution to Tamil Nadu, in this House on 18.07.1967 and got it passed. On that basis, a law was passed in the Parliament in 1968 and from 14.01.1969, our state became Tamil Nadu.

The British Parliament passed the 'Indian High Courts Act, 1861' and on the basis of the royal edict issued by Queen Victoria, the Madras High Court was established in 1862. As the then Madras Presidency comprised parts of Andhra and Kerala, this High Court was named as the High Court of Judicature at Madras by way of mentioning the place where the court was located.

After the linguistic division of the states in 1956, the High Courts that came into being, were named after their states concerned.

It is inappropriate that the Madras High Court, set up under an edict of the British Queen, is to be known under the same name even now. Under a legislation passed in 1996, the name of Madras city was changed into Chennai city. Later a proposal was sent to the Central Government in 1997 to change the name High Court of Judicature at Madras to 'High Court of Judicature at Chennai' in line with the change in the name of the city.

Now, the Central Government has introduced a Bill in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 – The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 - for altering the names of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts. The Draft Bill states that from the date to be notified, Madras High Court will be known as 'Chennai High Court'.

This High Court, located in Chennai, is the High Court, not only for Chennai but for the whole of Tamil Nadu. It will only be appropriate to call the Bench of this High Court at Madurai as the Bench of the Tamil Nadu High Court rather than the Bench of the Chennai High Court. Also, most of the High Courts in India have been named after their respective States. Hence, it is most fitting to name the High Court at Chennai as

'Tamil Nadu High Court'. So, I move the following resolution, urging the Central Government to amend its draft Bill and name the High Court as 'Tamil Nadu High Court':

RESOLUTION

The Central Government has introduced a Draft Bill 2016 in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 – "The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill 2016 – for changing the names of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts. The Draft Bill mentions that from the notified date, the Madras High Court will come to be known as Chennai High Court.

A resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly on 18.07.1967 for changing the name of Madras State, mentioned in the Indian Constitution, to Tamil Nadu. The Parliament passed a law, on that basis, in 1968 and from 14.01.1969, the state has come to be known as Tamil Nadu.

By an Act of 1996, the name of Madras City has been changed to Chennai city. Hence, Chennai will connote Chennai City alone.

This House requests the Central Government to change the name 'Chennai High Court' mentioned in its Draft Bill brought before the Lok Sabha by it, to 'Tamil Nadu High Court' as the High Court located in Chennai city has jurisdiction all over Tamil Nadu state; the High Courts in the post – 1956 linguistic division of States are named after their respective States; the High Court that goes under the name Madras High Court, now, has a Bench in Madurai, naming the High Court for the whole of Tamil Nadu as Chennai High Court will be inappropriate and it will only be proper to call it 'Tamil Nadu High Court'.

I resume my seat requesting the Hon'ble Members, through the Hon'ble Speaker, to pass this resolution unanimously.

Tyagis Day - 17.07.2016

In connection with `Tyagis Day' on 17.07.2016, floral tributes were offered on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government to the portraits of Tyagis Shenbagaraman, Sankaralinganar and Bashyam alias Arya kept near their statues at Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai by Hon'ble Ministers and other high Government officials participated.

‘Rename High Court of Madras as High Court of Tamil Nadu’

D.O. Letter dated 01.08.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon’ble Prime Minister of India

“The Government of India has introduced “The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016” in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 in order to rename the High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. As per this Bill, from the appointed day, the High Court of Madras shall be known as the High Court of Chennai.

Based on overwhelming public opinion in Tamil Nadu, the proposed change of name was debated in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. After a detailed discussion, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution on 01.08.2016, to call upon the Government of India to move necessary amendments to the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha so as to rename the High Court of Madras as the High Court of Tamil Nadu for the reasons outlined in the Resolution.

The text of Resolution passed unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 01.08.2016 is appended. I request the Government of India to take immediate further action on the basis of the Resolution”.

Text of the Resolution placed and carried unanimously in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 01.08.2016.

RESOLUTION

The Government of India has introduced the “The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016” in the Lok Sabha on 19.07.2016 in order to rename the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras High Courts. As per this Bill, from the appointed day, the High Court of Madras shall be known as the High Court of Chennai.

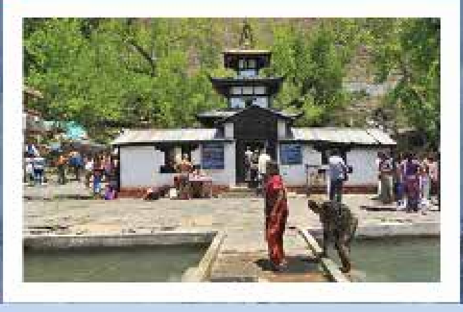
On 18.07.1967, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution to change the name of the State known as Madras State in the Constitution of India to Tamil Nadu, based on which Parliament enacted a law in 1968 and our State came to be known as Tamil Nadu from 14.01.1969.

The City of Madras was renamed as Chennai by an Act passed in 1996. As per that Act, Chennai denotes only the City of Chennai.

As the High Court which is situated in the City of Chennai has jurisdiction over the whole State of Tamil Nadu; as after the passage of the States Reorganization Act, 1956, which reorganized States on a linguistic basis, the High Courts of those States came to be known by the names of

the respective States; as the High Court presently known as the High Court of Madras has a Bench functioning at Madurai, it would not be appropriate to name the High Court which has jurisdiction over the whole of Tamil Nadu as the High Court of Chennai; and hence it is befitting that the High Court which is presently called the High Court of Madras be renamed as the High Court of Tamil Nadu; this House calls upon the Government of India to move necessary amendments to the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha so as to change the name of the High Court of Madras as the High Court of Tamil Nadu instead of High Court of Chennai.

Copter sortie approved by Chief Minister comes to rescue of Mukthinath pilgrims



Following media reports that 10 persons of a 19-member team from Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu which had gone on a pilgrim tour to Mukthinath temple in Nepal on July 20, got stranded following heavy rains and landslide there, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has directed officials to get in touch with the Indian Embassy in Nepal and initiate rescue operations immediately.

The Indian Embassy officials in Nepal have informed the Tamil Nadu Government officials that the 10 persons from Kancheepuram are safe in Jamsham Nagar, that steps will be taken, after weather conditions improve, to rejoin them with the rest of the team which is in Bokaro and they will be flown back to India from Bokaro via Kathmandu. The State Government officials continue to be in touch with the Embassy officials in regard to the condition of these 10 persons.

Thiru.P. Ganesh of Aminjikarai, Chennai has presented a petition to the Tamil Nadu Government that his father and relatives, totalling 10, had gone to Mukthinath temple in Nepal but got stranded there due to weather conditions and requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister to save them.

The First Secretary in the Indian Embassy in Nepal got in touch with the Tamil Nadu Government PWD Secretary on 30.07.2016 and informed him that the weather in Jamsham Nagar had not improved and hence the 10 stranded persons from Kancheepuram would be flown to Bokaro by helicopter and from there, they could catch a flight and reach Kathmandu and that Tamil Nadu Government should bear the helicopter charges of Rs.2.10 lakh.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed Tamil Nadu officials to immediately pay Rs.2.10 lakh to the Indian Embassy in Nepal and take all necessary steps to retrieve the 10 persons safely and for their return to Chennai after a stay at Tamil Nadu Illam in Delhi.

Chief Minister powerfully proves that Tamil Nadu is power surplus

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** in the Legislative Assembly on 03.08.2016 (English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker, as I was entering the House, the Hon'ble Member was saying - 'You are trying to create an illusion that Tamil Nadu is a power surplus State'. He was repeatedly using the phrase 'trying to create an illusion'. We are not trying to create that illusion. In its Load Balance Generation report, the Central Electricity Authority has clearly stated that Tamil Nadu is a surplus State in power (thumping of desks). When he says that the agreements signed in the minority DMK's rule were all signed in our regime (thumping of desks), it is akin, I wish to inform through you, to a person not conversant with the football game repeatedly scoring same side goal (thumping of desks).

Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble P. Ranganathan would not have been confused on whether Tamil Nadu is a power surplus State or not had he read the policy note (thumping of desks). I shall now read the pages 3 and 4 of the policy note. This policy note has been tabled today.

In 2010, the per day consumption of electricity was on an average 200 million units. Now, in 2016, it has risen to 300 million units. (thumping of desks). Moreover, on 29.04.2016, the peak demand of 15,343 MW (thumping of desks) and the peak consumption of 345.617 million units were met/fulfilled. Besides, the Load Balance Generation Report released by the Central Electricity Authority has mentioned very clearly that in 2016-2017, Tamil Nadu's additional generation of power will be of the order of 11,649 million units and it will become a power surplus State.

During the minority DMK's rule, they spoiled the entire Electricity sector by committing all possible mistakes. Everything they did was

wrong (thumping of desks). After we were elected to run the Government, we rectified, from 2011 to 2016, all their mistakes (thumping of desks). We lighted up Tamil Nadu that was submerged in darkness till then; we made the State shine (thumping of desks). Today, they are unable to level any charge against us in respect of the power sector or blame us in any way because all the mistakes are on their side; the credit of rectifying them is on our side (thumping of desks). As the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity was giving clear-cut answers and as they were receiving, every second, blows in the form of replies, I expected that they would not remain in the House thereafter. Accordingly, they have staged a walk-out.

Proof of the fact is in the figures

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** during the debate on Energy Department's Demands for Grants in the Assembly on 03.08.2016, explaining with statistics that Tamil Nadu is a power surplus State. (English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker,

Projects to generate electricity to the tune of 3,136 MW - 1,500 MW in Vellur, 1,000 MW in Thoothukudi, 600 MW in North Chennai thermal plant and 36 MW through minor hydro electric schemes - were started even in my earlier regime, from 2001 to 2006. The earlier DMK Government did not complete these projects expeditiously for their own selfish interests. These projects were delayed solely for the purpose of purchasing electricity at higher cost from the private sector and from power exchanges.

After the AIADMK rule started in 2011, not only the various power project were completed speedily, but also steps were taken to purchase power from other States. For getting power from other States, there should be power transmission corridors. Only on the insistence of the AIADMK Government that transmission corridors should be set up to facilitate power transmission from Northern States to Tamil Nadu, 765 kilovolt capacity corridors were set up between Sholapur in Maharashtra State to Thiruvalam and between Narendra and Kolhapur, and Tamil Nadu is getting power through them. In the last 5 years, we have been getting 8,432.5 MW additional power - 4,455.5 MW from our own projects and through our share from the central projects, 3,030 MW through the long term and medium term power procurement agreements and 947 MW from solar energy projects.

‘Government sincere on Prohibition’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa’s reference in the Legislative Assembly on 04.08.2016 about the lifting of Prohibition in 1971 and the phased re-introduction of Prohibition now, during the debate on Demands for Grants for Prohibition and Excise Department.

Hon’ble Speaker,

I deem it my duty to record some views in this House on this occasion.

The then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi lifted prohibition in August 1971. Indian Made Foreign Liquor, arrack and toddy shops were opened all over the State.

When members from different parties demanded in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 2007 eradication of illicit arrack, the then Chief Minister Thiru. Karunanidhi said: “Illicit arrack cannot be eradicated; this is what I wish to tell them. The reason is, if we are to compete with other countries in the prohibition programme, we can succeed only in manufacturing better items; in no other way we can succeed. This is borne out by the present day conditions in the world, the world culture and world civilization”. This is the honest view of Thiru.Karunanidhi about prohibition.

As for me, I am firm in the introduction Prohibition in a phased way. That is why, after assuming office again, we have cut down the working hours of retail liquor shops by two hours and closed down 500 liquor shops. Hence, I wish to state that only my Government is sincere in Prohibition. ■

Chief Minister hoists Tricolour at War Memorial

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa paid homage on 23.07.2016 to the army jawans who made the supreme sacrifice for the Nation, by placing a wreath at the Victory War Memorial, located near Fort St. George, Chennai, and hoisting the National Flag at the flag mast newly erected there by the Indian Army.

By way of honouring the memory of soldiers who had laid down their lives for the country, there is a war memorial in Chennai near Fort St. George. With most of such war memorials in the country having a flag mast flying the National Flag, a 30.5 metre tall flag mast has now been erected by the Army at the war memorial near Fort St. George to highlight tradition and patriotism.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister hoisted the National Flag in this newly erected mast and paid respects to the jawans killed in action for the country.

Chief Minister inaugurates Metro rail extension work, wants MoU clauses altered

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** on 23.07.2016, while inaugurating the first phase extension of Chennai Metro rail from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-WIMCO Nagar (English Translation)

Hon'ble Central Minister for Urban Development, Housing, Urban Poverty Eradication and Information and Broadcasting Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu, who has come to participate in this pleasant function,

Hon'ble Industries Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.C. Sampath,

Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary to Tamil Nadu Government Dr. P. Rama Mohan Rao who has delivered the welcome address, Adviser to Government Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan,

High officials of the Central Government, Principal Secretary, Planning, Development and Special Initiative Department Thiru. S.Krishnan,

Managing Director, Chennai Metro Rail Company Thiru.Pankaj Kumar Bansal,

Members of Parliament and Legislature, Representatives of Local Bodies, Government officials, Respected Elders,

Ladies, my veritable gods who sustain me,

My dear siblings who are blood unto blood of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and dearer to me than my own life,

At the outset, I offer my affectionate regards to all of you.

I am extremely happy to lay the foundation and inaugurate the works on extending the first Chennai Metro Rail track from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-Wimco Nagar.Thiru.

Venkaiah Naidu played an important role in getting Central Government approval for this scheme for the extension of this track. Hence, I was firm that he should participate in the inauguration of this scheme. On 29.06.2015, I flagged off the 10.15 km elevated metro rail passenger service from Koyambedu to Alandur. I invited Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu on behalf of Tamil Nadu Government for that inaugural function but he could not participate as he had to go abroad on official work. His Urban Development Department officials participated in that function.

Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu is Tamil Nadu's best friend. It is no exaggeration to say that he is in the forefront of safeguarding the interests of Tamil Nadu and expeditiously getting the Central Government's approval for Tamil Nadu's schemes.

Within a few months after Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi assumed office at the Centre, I discussed with Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu when he called on me on 05.09.2014, the demands pertaining to his department from the Memorandum of Demands I presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government. I requested him to give approval to the extension of Metro Rail from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-Wimco Nagar.

At his suggestion, Tamil Nadu Government officials held detailed discussions in this regard with the Central Government officials. On that basis, the Urban Development Department, under his charge, recommended this extension scheme and got Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu's approval. On 13.12.2015, when he met me at Chennai and discussed about flood relief and other schemes, he informed me that his ministry had cleared the metro rail extension scheme and assured that he would take necessary steps to get the approval of the Central Government finance department. Today, this scheme is inaugurated only on account of the initiative taken by Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu and the co-operation extended by Prime Minister Thiru. Narendra Modi. That is why I had instructed officials to arrange for the inaugural function on a Saturday to facilitate Thiru.Venkaiah Naidu to participate as Parliament is in session now. I am truly extremely happy that Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu is participating in this function.

In 2003, my Government then undertook a feasibility survey for a Chennai Metro Rail scheme. On the basis of that survey, two corridors for the rail track were selected – one 23 km long from Washermanpet to Chennai airport and another 22 km long from Chennai Central Station to St.Thomas Mount. Through this step, my Government sowed the seed for a Chennai Metro rail scheme.

The State and Central Governments approved the first phase of the Rs.14,600 crore Chennai Metro Rail scheme respectively in November 2007 and February 2009. From 2006 to May 2011, in the then DMK regime, only Rs.1,143 crore was spent for this scheme. From June 2011 up to June last, Rs.11,596 crore has been spent. My Government has ensured that there is no financial or other constraint to complete the project works in time. For this scheme, my Government has so far extended Rs.2,383 crore as share capital, Rs.1,854 crore as subordinate loan and Rs.82.51 crore as subsidy. The Central Government has contributed Rs.1,950 crore as share capital and Rs.365 crore as subordinate loan. From Japan International Co-operation Agency, a loan of Rs. 7,095 crore has been obtained.

Till 2011, in the then DMK regime, only 3 per cent works in the construction of Chennai Metro Rail were completed. After my Government took up administration in May 2011, works were expedited. As a result, 98 per cent of works have now been completed in respect of elevated tracks and Metro Stations, 65 per cent in respect of laying underground tracks and Metro Stations and 100 per cent in respect of workshops.

From 29.06.2015, metro rail service is available from Koyambedu to Alandur. Passenger service will commence next month between Chinnamalai and Airport, in October between Alandur and St.Thomas Mount, both in the elevated track and by this year end between Koyambedu and Nehru Park in the tunnelled track. In the rest of the areas, all works will be completed by the end of 2017.

To reduce the growing traffic congestion in North Chennai and to provide Metro Rail service to the people of that area, the then DMK Government sent a proposal to the Centre in 2010 for extension of the rail track by 9 kms from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-WIMCO Nagar. However, the then central Congress coalition Government did not at all approve the proposal. As I have already stated, due to the efforts put in by my Government and the co-operation extended by Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu, the present Central Government has given its approval to the scheme. In this rail track, 8 metro railway stations will be set up. I am happy that of these stations, Sir Theagaraya College, Korukkupet, Tondiarpet and Toll gate stations fall in my Assembly constituency of Radhakrishnan Nagar.

The 45.1 km long metro rail track, currently executed, will not be sufficient to meet future needs. Hence, my Government has decided to go in for 3 more corridors of rail tracks in the second phase. A detailed project report

is being prepared for 2 of these 3 tracks to originate from Madhavaram in North Chennai. For getting financial assistance, these schemes have been included in the Japan International Co-operation Agency Revolving Fund scheme for the year 2016. Soon, this scheme will be forwarded to the Central Government for its approval. I request Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu that the Union Government should give its approval speedily.

In February 2011, during the then DMK regime, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Central Government, State Government and the metro rail company. Several clauses in that MoU were against the interests of the State Government. I have requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister that they have to be recast. I have dealt with this, in detail, in the petition that I had presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14.06.2016. I urge the Central Government to take the necessary steps for altering this agreement in a way as not to affect the State Government.

Informing you that the metro rail works inaugurated today after laying the foundation stone for the extension of the track from Washermanpet to Thiruvottiyur-Wimco Nagar will be completed in 3 years and that North Chennai people will greatly benefit by it, I take leave of you, hailing, Anna Naamam Vazhga! Puratchi Thalaivar MGR naamam vazhga!

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Pension orders for 1,248 beneficiaries

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa issued pension orders to 5 beneficiaries at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016 as a token for the distribution of such orders to 1,248 beneficiaries in the Dr. Radhakrishnan Assembly constituency, Chennai.

For the development of the Dr.Radhakrishnan constituency, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated at a Government function on 28.02.2016 several new schemes costing Rs.180.41 crore and laid the foundation stone for many schemes costing Rs. 193.26 crore. Also, to bring to the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister easily the grievances of the people of this constituency, a special officer in the Chief Minister's Cell is visiting the Tondiarpet Taluk office every Tuesday to collect petitions from the people. Appropriate follow-up action is taken on them.

The 1,248 beneficiaries of the constituency will get a monthly pension of Rs.1,000/- from the month of August.

German envoy congratulates Chief Minister on poll victory

Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** with **H.E. Dr. Martin Ney**, Ambassador of Germany to India on 19.07.2016

The Ambassador of Germany Dr Martin Ney called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat on 19.07.2016. Dr. Martin Ney congratulated Hon'ble Chief Minister on her resounding victory in the Assembly Election and on assumption of office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for a historic second consecutive term. Dr. Martin Ney appreciated the expeditious action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in restoring normalcy after the unprecedented floods in December, 2015. Dr.Ney mentioned that he visited the Volkswagen plant on the outskirts of Chennai in January, 2016, and was impressed to see how quickly the recovery had been effected.

The German Ambassador highlighted that in India, Tamil Nadu has the biggest portfolio of projects implemented with KfW assistance. The Ambassador indicated the keenness of Germany to extend assistance to the Smart City Project to be implemented in Coimbatore. The Ambassador stated that a delegation including business leaders would be visiting Coimbatore on 20.07.2016 to have further detailed discussions with the Mayor and other officials of Coimbatore City.

The Ambassador also highlighted the existing areas of co-operation between Tamil Nadu and Germany in New and Renewable Energy including establishing the Green Energy Corridor, Intra-State transmission system and other urban infrastructure including storm water drainage and sewerage systems, urban mobility and transportation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted that the efforts taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in effectively maintaining law and order and ensuring social peace contributed significantly to making Tamil Nadu a favoured investment destination. Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that a number of German and other multi-national automobile companies were pioneers in investing in Tamil Nadu and have contributed to making Tamil Nadu India's automobile hub.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the German Government for the assistance extended to various projects in Tamil Nadu by KfW and the continued investment by German companies in Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured the German delegation that Tamil Nadu would continue to extend its full co-operation for German investment in the State. Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the continued co-operation and support of Germany for various developmental projects in Tamil Nadu.

The Ambassador of the Germany was accompanied by Dr. (Mrs.) Gabriele Ney, Ms. Annette Baessler, Counsellor, Embassy, New Delhi, Mr. Wolfgang Mueller, Acting Consul General and Ms. Priya Ramamurthi, German Language Specialist, German Consulate. Dr. P. Rama Mohana Rao I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, I.A.S., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru. Shiv Das Meena, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Public Department were present. ■

Chief Minister writes to Uttarakhand CM on Thiruvalluvar statue

D.O. letter dated 22.07.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Harish Rawat**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

"As you are aware, the issue of the installation of the Statue of the revered Tamil Sage Poet Thiruvalluvar at Haridwar had been causing considerable disquiet in Tamil Nadu. I had also written to the Prime Minister on this issue. I am grateful that you have responded speedily and positively to the outpouring of sentiments by the people of Tamil Nadu on this sensitive issue. I am happy to learn that you have arranged for the installation of the statue of Thiruvalluvar in the premises of Mela Bhavan in Haridwar. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I thank you for your prompt and positive action." ■

'Speed up Green energy corridor to enable State sell surplus wind energy'

D.O.Letter dated 09.07.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"**A**s you are aware, Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in promoting Renewable Energy in the country. Today, Tamil Nadu, with an installed capacity of 7600 MW of wind power contributes about 27% of the country's total installed wind capacity. In addition, there is an installed capacity of 1142 MW of solar power. Our goal is to add a further 4500 MW of wind power and 5000 MW of solar power over the next 5 years.

Wind energy is seasonal and generated at particular times of the year mainly from June to September in Tamil Nadu. The real benefit of renewable energy is only if it is actually generated and consumed, substituting conventional power and for this it is very important that adequate evacuation infrastructure is established. In this context, Tamil Nadu decided to establish an intra-State Green Energy Corridor and I had written to the then Prime Minister on 16.09.2013 seeking assistance from the National Clean Energy Fund to establish the intra-State Green Energy Corridor. Based on financing from the NCEF and further assistance from the German aid agency, KfW, an intra-State Green Energy Corridor is well on its way to being fully operational.

Normally the wind season is from June to September of every year which coincides with the South West Monsoon. During the current wind season, wind power to an extent of 4400 MW is being utilized in the Tamil Nadu Grid based on the evacuation infrastructure which has been established. Even with the implementation of the intra-State evacuation infrastructure, the entire wind energy generated in the State cannot be fully consumed within Tamil Nadu particularly in this season.

Tamil Nadu is in a position to sell about 1000 MW of wind power to other States, which require this power to meet their Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO). Tamil Nadu has already met its Renewable Purchase Obligation. Many States in India who are unable to meet the Renewable Purchase Obligation, are now approaching Tamil Nadu for assistance for meeting their Renewable Purchase Obligation.

To facilitate the sale of surplus wind power to the States in need of renewable energy, it is important that a dedicated inter-State Green Energy Corridor is established so that the surplus wind energy from Tamil Nadu can be successfully evacuated and sold to other States. I understand that the Power Grid Corporation already proposes to establish such an inter-State Green Energy Corridor.

May I, therefore, request you to instruct the Ministry of Power to speed up the process of establishing the inter-State Green Energy

Corridor at the earliest to enable Tamil Nadu to transmit renewable power of 1000 MW to other States which are in need of such power? While dedicated infrastructure would take some time to be created, in the meantime, the Power Grid Corporation may be directed to allocate dedicated transmission capacity on a priority basis to evacuate the surplus wind energy available in Tamil Nadu to other States this season. I would be grateful for early action in this regard".

NEWS IN PICTURES

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** at a review meeting on the activities of the Agriculture Department at the Secretariat on 14.07.2016. Hon'ble Ministers and other high Government officials participated.

The Executive Director of Bank of India, Thiru. R.A. Sankaranarayanan, General Manager Thiru. Kulbhushan Jain, former Chairman and Managing Director Thiru. T.S. Narayanan and Senior Manager Thiru. J. John Britto paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** at the Secretariat on 19.07.2016.

Madathukulam Sub-Treasury office building opened

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016, the Rs. 52 lakh sub-treasury office building of the Finance Department at Madathukulam, Tiruppur District. Office buildings for 8 other sub-treasuries, costing Rs.4,87,80,000/- were also declared open in the Districts of Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Kancheepuram, Thanjavur, Dindigul and Tirunelveli.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced that own buildings would be constructed for sub-treasuries, presently functioning from rented buildings for averting recurring rental expenditure, implementing the e – governance schemes of ATBPS (Automated Treasury Bill Passing System), e-pension and for the safe-keeping of high denomination stamp papers and other articles of safe custody. In the last 5 years, construction of own buildings has been completed for 25 sub-treasury offices at a cost of Rs.14.42 crore.

The Madathukulam sub-treasury office building has 3 floors, a built-up area of 3,060 sq. ft and facilities inclusive of a safety vault, ramp, waiting room for pensioners and toilet for the differently-abled.

The other 8 office buildings have come up at Thoothukudi (Thoothukudi District), Mudukalathur (Ramanathapuram), Tambaram (Kancheepuram), Thiruvidaimarudhur (Thanjavur), Athur and Oddanchatram (Dindigul) and at Tirunelveli and Alangulam (Tirunelveli District).

Chief Minister sanctions Rs. 3 lakh each for those infected after cataract surgery

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa has sanctioned a solatium of Rs. 3 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund to 23 persons who underwent cataract operation at the Mettur Government Headquarters Hospital, Salem District between 14.06.2016 and 16.06.2016 and subsequently developed infection in the eye. A monthly pension of Rs. 1,000/- has also been sanctioned to 21 of them under the Differently-Abled Persons Pension Scheme.

About 5.5 lakh persons in Tamil Nadu undergo cataract operation every year under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. For the poor, it is carried out free of cost at Government Hospitals. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in preventing blindness, particularly that caused by cataract. So far, 1.96 lakh persons have undergone cataract operation this year and all of them have regained vision. At the Mettur Government Headquarters Hospital, about 928 persons undergo cataract operation every year on an average.

On learning that some of the patients who underwent cataract surgery on the three days from 14.06.2016 to 16.06.2016 had developed infection in the eye, all the 23 patients treated on these days were referred to Aravind Eye Hospital at Salem and Coimbatore and to Mohan Kumaramangalam Government Medical College Hospital, Salem and given high-end treatment.

Immediately after learning about the post-operative infected patients, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed Hon'ble Ministers Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswamy (PWD, Highways and Minor Ports), Thiru. S.P.Velumani (Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Special Programmes Implementation), and Thiru. Dr. C. Vijayabaskar (Health and Family Welfare) to visit and console the affected patients and take steps to provide the best treatment to them.

Of the 23 patients admitted to hospitals for treatment, 2 have regained vision. Infection has been controlled in the case of 17 patients. However, expert ophthalmologists are of the view that only after three months, a definite opinion on restoring vision can be given. Four other patients continue to be under treatment as the infection has not been completely eradicated.

Chief Minister presents Insurance Cards to Government employees

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented insurance cards at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016 to five Government employees by way of inaugurating the medical insurance scheme for Government employees through the United India Insurance Company for a period of 4 years from 01.07.2016 to 30.06.2020.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had issued orders for the implementation of an upgraded medical insurance scheme for Tamil Nadu Government employees for 4 years from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2016 through the Central Government public sector, United India Insurance company. The insurance cover ended on 30.06.2016. The Hon'ble Chief Minister extended the scheme with some additional benefits for 4 years from 01.07.2016.

The United Insurance company was selected through an open tender process from among other public sector companies for the implementation of the scheme.

The new scheme retains the Rs. Four lakh insurance cover for Government employees for 4 years but has enhanced the financial assistance to Rs.7.50 lakh for some specified treatments including that for cancer and transplantation of organs. The age limit for differently abled persons with 40 per cent disability, wholly dependent on Government employees, has been removed to benefit them under the new scheme. The scheme also endorses sanctioned treatments given in unlisted hospitals too as an emergency measure in the event of accidents and the Government employees can benefit under it. The insurance cover is available for 4 years for Government employees, personnel of local bodies, Government public sector institutions, statutory Boards and State Government universities and their family members.

While the premium for the insurance cover for the Government servant is Rs.180/- per month, the Tamil Nadu Government will make over to the Insurance company Rs.17.90 crore every year as its share.

'Earnest efforts' sought to halt apprehensions on high seas

D.O.Letter dated 16.07.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

"The unabated spree of apprehensions of Tamil Nadu fishermen constrains me to write once again to bring to your notice an incident in which 4 Tamil Nadu fishermen, along with their motorised fishing boat, who set out for fishing from Pamban fishing base of Ramanathapuram District, have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the early hour of 15.07.2016 and taken to Thalaimannar, Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Government continues to infringe upon the historically enjoyed rights of our fishermen to fish in the traditional waters of the Palk Bay. The Sri Lankan Navy has escalated the frequency and magnitude of incidents of abduction of our fishermen and seizure of boats and fishing equipment undeterred in recent days.

I once again reiterate that the position of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) itself is a matter which is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. I have challenged the constitutional validity of the ceding of Katchatheevu through the Indo -Sri Lankan agreements of 1974 and 1976 in my personal capacity, and subsequently the Government of Tamil Nadu impleaded itself in this case.

The Sri Lankan strategy of not releasing the boats of our fishermen is causing great frustration amongst the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. Without their livelihood base, these fishermen are in a state of despondency. I urge you to take up this matter with the highest authorities of the Sri Lankan Government through our High Commission in Sri Lanka and ensure the immediate release of the precariously berthed boats which continue to suffer great damage.

I request your urgent directions to the Ministry of External Affairs to initiate earnest efforts to take up this matter with the concerned authorities in Sri Lanka and bring an immediate halt to the apprehensions at high seas and secure the immediate release of our 77 fishermen and their 102 fishing boats, including the 4 fishermen and their one motorised fishing boat apprehended on 15.07.2016, without any delay.

May I request you to kindly issue directions to the Ministry of External Affairs immediately?"

Rs. 2 crore Yatri Nivas at Rameswaram

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016 , the Rs. 2 crore Yatri Nivas constructed by the Tourist Department at Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District.

Yet another 'Yatri Nivas' of the same department constructed at a cost of Rs.1.20 crore at Thirukadaiyur, Nagapattinam District, HR & CE Department's Safety Vault for statues, Annadhana Halls, hostels and rest rooms for devotees, commercial complex, indoor stadium and other buildings costing Rs.9,44,95,000/- were also declared open.

The two-storeyed 'Yatri Nivas' on a built-up area of 13,175 sq. ft and with 21 rooms at Rameswaram has come up at Hotel Tamil Nadu complex. The one at Thirukadaiyur has a built-up area of 3,560 sq.ft., has 2 floors and is very near the Arulmigu Abirami Udanurai Amirthakateswarar temple. Totally there are 10 rooms in this yatri nivas.

The safety vault for statues is constructed at a cost of Rs.94 lakh at Arulmigu Arthanaareeswarar temple, Thiruchengode, Namakkal District; the 6 Annadhana Halls are constructed in Arulmigu Sundara Mahalingswamy temple, Chathuragiri, Madurai District, Arulmigu Vaanchinathaswamy temple, Srivanjiam, Tiruvarur District, Arulmigu Vadaaranyeshwarar temple, Thiruvalangadu, a subsidiary temple of Arulmigu Subramania Swamy temple, Tiruttani, Tiruvallur District, Arulmigu Lakshminarasimhar Swamy temple, Singirikudi and Arulmigu Rajagopalaswamy temple, Pudupalayam, both in Cuddalore District and Arulmigu Thiruvatteeswarar temple, Thiruvatteeswaranpet, Chennai (costing totally Rs.1,95,60,000/-).

The Reception Centres, hostels for devotees and rest rooms for 'sevaarthis' have come up at Arulmigu Velliangiri Andavar temple, Poondi, Coimbatore District, Arulmigu Poongavanatthamman also known as Angaala Parameswari temple, Putlur, Tiruvallur District, Arulmigu Sundara Mahalinga Swamy temple,

Chathuragiri, Madurai District and Arulmigu Jambukeswarar temple, Thiruvaanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District (Rs.2,51,70,000/-).

Toilets and bathrooms have been put up at the Kaliyuga Varadaraja Perumal Temple Girls' High School, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur District, Arulmigu Jambukeswarar temple, Tiruvaanaikaval, Tiruchirappalli District, Arulmigu Sundara Mahalinga Swamy temple, Chathuragiri, Madurai District, Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy temple, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai District and at Arulmigu Vennangudi Muniyappaswamy temple, Jagir Ammapalayam, Salem District (Rs.96.95 lakh).

The indoor stadium has come up at the Parasakthi Women's Arts College, Courtallam, Tirunelveli District (Rs.98 lakh).

Store room, safe-keeping room for footwears, commercial complex and structures for the safe-keeping of temple cars ('Thaer') have been constructed at Arulmigu Ranganathaswamy temple, Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District, Arulmigu Sugavaneswarar temple, Salem Town, and at Arulmigu Badrakaaliamman temple, Mecheri, both in Salem District. (Rs.1.50 crore).

Class rooms, laboratory and office building have come up at the Kaliyuga Varadaraja Perumal temple girls' High School, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur District (Rs.58.70 lakh).

Chief Minister's unflagging efforts lead to release of fishermen

Fishermen of Palk Straits belonging to the District of Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram are arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy now and then while they are fishing in their traditional fishing areas in the sea.

Whenever the Tamil Nadu fishermen get arrested in this manner, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa takes all necessary steps to secure their release.

Between 31.05.2016 and 15.07.2016, 77 fishermen of these District were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy when they were fishing in their traditional fishing grounds in Palk Straits and in Gulf of Mannar and were lodged in Sri Lanka prisons. Through the letters dated 31.05.2016, 04.06.2016, 06.06.2016, 09.06.2016, 16.06.2016, 25.06.2016, 03.07.2016, 05.07.2016, 07.07.2016 and 16.07.2016, Hon'ble Chief Minister brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister immediately, the details of the arrest of the fishermen. In those letters, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had emphasised that the Central Government should take appropriate diplomatic measures to get the 77 innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen and their boats released and that the Hon'ble Prime Minister should directly intervene and take necessary steps to prevent the arrest of innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

On account of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's consistent efforts, the Sri Lankan Government has issued orders for the release of the 77 Tamil Nadu fishermen belonging to the District of Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram. In the first phase, 43 fishermen were released on 25.07.2016. The rest, will be released in one or two days.

Chief Minister opens 'Teachers Home', many educational facilities across State

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016 the Rs.3 crore 'Aasiriyar Illam' of the School Education Department at K. Abishekapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruchirappalli District.

Also, hostels for girl students, school buildings, residential school buildings, model school buildings, additional class rooms, science laboratories, library buildings across the State and an office building for the Assistant Primary Education Officer, all costing Rs.405,34,06,000/-, were declared open and foundation was laid for school buildings to be newly constructed.

The 3-storeyed 'Aasiriyar Illam' has a built up area of 15,376 sq. ft, 23 rooms to accommodate 73 teachers, 3 special guest rooms for as many guests, reception room, kitchen, dining room auditorium, storeroom and as well as drinking water and toilet facilities.

The other buildings declared open are: 3 hostels for girl students at Government Higher Secondary and model school complexes in the Districts of Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai (Rs.7.36 crore); 7 school buildings in the Districts of Kanniyakumari, Kancheepuram and Krishnagiri (Rs.3,87,72,000/-); 11 model school buildings in the Districts of Ariyalur, Erode, Krishnagiri, Perambalur, Salem, Tiruppur and Tiruvannamalai (Rs.54,07,28,000/-); 19 additional class rooms and 8 science laboratories in Government High and Higher Secondary Schools in the Districts of Ariyalur, Dharmapuri and Madurai (Rs.2,07,31,000/-) – all under the Universalisation of Upper Primary Education programme for educational development of school students, particularly to encourage girl students to learn.

Under the NABARD credit scheme constructions declared open include, 1,716 additional class rooms and 196 laboratories in

234 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools in 31 Districts (Rs.269,18,14,000/-); 69 additional class rooms and 13 laboratories in 14 Government High and Higher Secondary Schools in the Districts of Salem, Karur and Pudukkottai (Rs.11,17,15,000/-);

747 additional class rooms in 526 Government Primary, Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools, 26 Primary School buildings, 7 Middle School buildings, 2 residential school buildings under the Education for All programme for providing quality education by developing infrastructure facilities in schools (Rs.57,18,73,000/-);

Library buildings at Elapakkam, Kancheepuram District and at Veeranandapuram, Cuddalore District under the Directorate of Public Library for developing reading skills in the general public (Rs.24.23 lakh); and an office building for the Assistant Primary Education officer at Cheranmadevi, Tirunelveli District under Part II scheme (Rs.17.50 lakh) - all costing totally Rs.408,34,06,000/-.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation for 22 schools in the Districts of Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Villupuram and Virudhunagar under the Universalisation of Upper Primary Education Programme (Rs.35,37,82,000/-).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated for the State Council for Education, Research and Training, the teaching programme through image recognition application technology by creating digital content lessons for students in classes 10 to 12 for providing them the experience of computer based education and the experience of application based learning (Rs.80 lakh) and the Edusat (educational satellite) facility at 58 places (Rs.2.54 crore) for upgradation of education through training teachers in learning and teaching.

To facilitate primary class students to learn easily the poems in their Tamil text books, DVDs have been brought out, with students and teachers' participation, containing those songs at a cost of Rs.5 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister released the discs and handed them over as a token to five school students.

NEWS IN PICTURES

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi **Selvi J Jayalalithaa** was shown the award presented to the Arasu Cable TV Corporation Ltd. by the Central Electronics and Information Technology Ministry for issuing the maximum number of plastic adhar cards through its e-service centres and capturing the first place at the National level. Thiru. J. Kumaragurubaran IAS, Managing Director of the Corporation showed the award and received the blessings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat on 25.07.2016. Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology Dr. M. Manikandan and Thiru. T.K. Ramachandran IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology were present on the occasion.

Chief Minister requests PM: Ensure Thiruvalluvar statue is installed

D.O. letter dated 20.07.2016 addressed by **Selvi J Jayalalithaa,** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to **Shri Narendra Modi,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"I write to bring to your urgent personal attention an unfortunate controversy that has arisen regarding the installation of the statue of Thiruvalluvar, the revered sage poet of Tamil Nadu at Haridwar, Uttarakhand. As you may be aware,Thiru. Tarun Vijay, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) had proposed the installation of the statue of Thiruvalluvar at Haridwar, and he had offered to raise the funds for the purpose.

The Thiruvalluvar Ganga Payanam was flagged off on 18.06.2016, at Kanniyakumari by Thiru. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, in the presence of Thiru. Tarun Vijay and several other leaders cutting across party lines. The Thiruvalluvar Ganga Payanam reached Chennai and was flagged off at Chennai on 22.06.2016, by the Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the presence of the Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping and two Ministers of my cabinet who were specifically deputed by me, apart from MPs and other dignitaries representing several Political Parties. The object of the Thiruvalluvar Ganga Payanam is to show solidarity of the North with the Tamil saint poet Thiruvalluvar's message of equality and ending social discrimination in society.

It is learnt that as local protests had prevented the installation of the statue at Har ki Pauri, the statue was installed at Shankaracharya Chowk, Haridwar, on 28.06.2016 and was to be unveiled on 29.06.2016 by the Governor and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. However, continued protests by local elements prevented the unveiling and the statue was temporarily installed in the Dam Kothi Guest House, Haridwar, in the presence of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh and the Governor of Meghalaya and other dignitaries. It is learnt that the Thiruvalluvar statue is now lying in the Dam Kothi Guest House, Haridwar, in an abandoned condition. The visuals of the statue in this condition beamed on television screens is causing outrage in Tamil Nadu.

I request you to kindly take up this matter with the Government of Uttarakhand urgently and to ensure that the statue of Thiruvalluvar is treated with due respect and is installed at an appropriate location at the earliest. Failure to do so would lead to the whole objective of the project to install the statue of Thiruvalluvar in a pilgrim centre in Northern India being completely defeated. I request you to kindly accord this issue the highest priority and prevail upon the Government of Uttarakhand to resolve the matter at the earliest."

Scheme launched for Smart Cards to 31,11,992 students

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa distributed at the Secretariat on 18.07.2016 smart cards to five school students as a token to mark the launching of the scheme of distribution of such cards to 31,11,992 school and college students for the academic year 2016-2017 for free travel in buses.

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been implementing in a flawless way countless schemes for the educational improvement of school students, particularly those from the poor families, like free education to prevent dropping out, nutritious meals, school uniforms, laptops, text books, note books, educational accessories, school bag, footwears, bicycle all at no cost, provision of incentives and for improvement in school infrastructure.

As part of these measures, smart cards for free travel in buses are distributed through the Tamil Nadu Government Transport Corporations to students in all schools in the State, in the special schools for the differently-abled, in Government arts and science colleges and in Government polytechnics and industrial institutes.

In the academic year 2015-2016, 28,05,578 students benefited to the tune of Rs.480 crore through the free bus passes and in the academic year 2016-2017, 31,11,992 students will benefit to the tune of Rs.504 crore.

Avvaiyar Award conferred on SCARF founder Dr. Saradha Menon

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa presented at the Secretariat on 19.07.2016 the Avvaiyar Award for the year 2016 to Dr. M. Saradha Menon, former Dean of the Government Institute of Mental Health, an institution dedicated to the welfare of mentally ill patients and their rehabilitation, and founder-adviser of the Schizophrenia Care and Research Foundation (SCARF).

The award, instituted in 2012, is to honour women who have distinguished themselves in any field including social reform, women development, religious harmony, service to language, arts, science, culture, civilization, media and administration and is given on the International Women's Day. It carries Rs. One lakh in cash, a gold medallion weighing 8 grams, citation and 'ponnaadai'.

Dr. Saradha Menon completed in two years the 3-year psychiatry course in Madras Christian college and got her M.D degree from the Madras Medical college. The first woman psychiatrist in the country, she was the recipient of many awards including Padma Bhushan. She joined the Chennai Institute of Mental Health in 1961 as the first woman superintendent. Under her leadership, the hospital's laboratory and other structures were upgraded, the occupational therapy unit was renovated and patients were given new training in crafts. She conducted annual sports day for the patients, displayed the handicrafts produced by the mentally ill patients and raised funds for the hospital through their sale.

For the welfare of the mentally ill patients, Dr. Saradha Menon started an NGO, SCARF in 1984, which provides them temporary accommodation, upgraded psychiatric treatment procedures, employment and industrial training. The Tamil Nadu Government announced on 02.03.2016 that Dr. Saradha Menon, selected by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, would be presented the Avvaiyar Award in appreciation of her excellent social service.

Presenting the award, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said: " We are honoured by your consent to accept this award. I am very happy to support you and hope that the Almighty may bless you with many more years of good health and service to the people".

Expressing her heart-felt gratitude, Dr. Saradha Menon said: "Warm and pleasant greetings and the best of wishes to you and all that you desire and work for, to happen.

I am beholden to you and deeply grateful for having considered me for the prestigious award – the Avvaiyar award- from the State of Tamil Nadu. I will try to live up to your expectation in the short time available.

You have always been very sympathetic, supportive and helpful regarding all services rendered to the mentally ill/disabled. I remember in 1995, you offered all the support to help SCARF India which has grown so well, and your announcement of equal opportunities for the mentally disabled as is offered to other disabled persons. Since then, many privileges and concessions have been offered to this unfortunate section of society. Your magnanimity, concern and compassion are the sources of hope for a better future for the mentally ill – for the patients, family, service providers and society in general.

May the dear lord bless you with long years of health in abundance, peace, wisdom and prosperity. Thank you Madam".

Chief Minister announces new Crop Insurance Scheme

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Selvi J Jayalalithaa on 15.07.2016 *(English Translation)*

My Government has been taking various steps to improve the living standards of farmers. For the development of agriculture, the Government headed by me has been adopting various measures like timely supply of agricultural inputs, production and distribution of quality seeds, micro irrigation schemes on 100 per cent subsidy for small and micro farmers and 75 per cent subsidy for the rest, farm mechanisation to meet shortage of agricultural labour and initiating necessary action for farmers to adopt new techniques and technology in agriculture. These have resulted in establishing new records every year in foodgrain production. Last year, the foodgrain production in Tamil Nadu was an unprecedented 1.30 crore tonnes.

To reduce the agricultural loan burden of farmers and as promised by us in our election manifesto, crop loan, medium term agricultural loan and farm connected long-term loan of small and micro farmers with the co-operative banks have all been waived.

I had also promised in our election manifesto that an upgraded crop insurance scheme would be implemented. Accordingly, I have ordered the implementation in Tamil Nadu of the Prime Minister Crop Insurance scheme with the State's participation.

As per this new crop insurance scheme, crop loss will be calculated at the village-level instead of at the firka level as at present. This will help precise assessment of crop loss and payment of compensation to farmers.

Till now, the compensation is for the loss sustained in the yield. The new scheme provides for payment of compensation for all kinds of losses including non-germination of seeds, inability to plant, those brought about by natural disaster in the period from sowing to harvest and post-harvest losses in the fields.

As the indemnity level for the calculation of compensation has been raised to 70 per cent from 60 for the highly damage-prone nine Districts, farmers in these Districts can get higher compensation.

Farmer's contribution to the premium to be paid to the Insurance companies for the insurance cover will be 1.5 per cent for the Rabi season (October to March) and 2 per cent for the kharif season (April to September). The

balance will be equally shared by the Central and State Governments.

Implementation of the new crop insurance scheme will entail a higher expenditure for the Tamil Nadu Government. Still, my Government will bear the expenditure willingly as the scheme is more advantageous to farmers. Till now, the State Government has been giving, on an average, Rs. 40 crore every year as subsidy towards crop insurance premium. This subsidy will shoot up to Rs.500 crore on account of the implementation of the new crop insurance scheme even if the number of farmers coming under the insurance cover remains at the same level as last year. If more farmers opt for insurance, the subsidy will go up further.

As for coconut growing farmers, I have ordered the present coconut tree insurance scheme to continue. I have ordered the implementation of the new crop insurance scheme by calling for tenders from the insurance companies, approved by the Central Government.

Apartments, houses for the poor

The Government headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa has been implementing several housing schemes for the poor and marginalised people to meet one of their basic needs.

The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board has been constructing apartments and individual houses in Chennai and other cities. In the last 5 years, 59,023 apartments and individual houses have been constructed under various schemes. Also, 3,024 apartments and 7,513 houses are under construction now.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned construction of 23,476 apartments and individual houses for the current year. Of these, 7,204 apartments will be constructed in Chennai city and in the towns of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Erode, Coimbatore, Pudukkottai, Namakkal and Nagapattinam. 16,272 individual houses will be constructed in the house sites of the economically weaker section people in Chennai, Vellore, Hosur, Ranipet, Virudhunagar, Madurai and in 157 Town Panchayats.

The apartments will each measure 400 sq.ft and will have a multi-purpose room, bed-room, kitchen, balcony, bathroom and toilet. Individual houses have to be constructed by the allottees themselves on a 300 sq.ft area and the Board will provide needed technical guidance. The Government will provide a subsidy of Rs.2.10 lakh to the beneficiary towards construction of the house.

Chief Minister interacts with students visiting Fort St. George, shares advice

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa interacted with students of Sishya school, Adyar who had come to Fort St. George on 18.07.2016 on a tour. The students and the teachers who had accompanied them were invited to the office of the Chief Minister for the interaction. The students and teachers also took a group photo with the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Speaking to the students, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said:

"I am very happy to have this opportunity to meet you all. You have come on a visit to go around the historical Fort St. George. I hope this visit has been informative and educative for all of you. This is the most unexpected pleasure and surprise for me because I never thought that I would have this wonderful opportunity of seeing and meeting and interacting with so many bright, well-educated, well-behaved youngsters. I wish you all a very bright future. I compliment your teachers because from your demeanour and behaviour, I can see that your teachers have shaped you very well. Now this is the age where all of you should concentrate mainly on your studies and of course extra curricular activities which means you should not spend all your time in front of the computer or the TV, or play video games. You should also go out and play in a healthy manner. You should engage yourself in sports and games also. I am sure all of you will have a very very bright future in whatever field you choose to take up and if at any time you require the assistance of the Government of Tamil Nadu, we are here. I am here to give your school and yourselves all the assistance that you may need. Once again, I express my happiness in having been able to meet all of you and I invoke God's blessings for all of you. God bless you".

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Selvi J Jayalalithaa unfurled the National tricolor Flag on the ramparts of Fort St. George at the Secretariat on 15.08.2016, and paid her respects to mark the 70th Independence Day of India.

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